

## Portfolio

**£22,000 to be won**

There is £22,000 to be won in *The Times* Portfolio competition today: the £20,000 weekly prize and the daily £2,000 prize. Yesterday's £2,000 was won by Mrs Cansbrook of Borehamwood, Herts. Portfolio list, page 12; week's price changes, back page Information Service.

## Madrid may get special role in Nato

Spain's withdrawal from Nato would cause "a very grave weakening" of the alliance, Lord Carrington, the Secretary-General, said during a visit to Madrid. But he indicated that the other Nato governments might agree to Spain achieving its own special degree of participation in Western defence.

## Ban on service for activist

A memorial service for the South African civil rights campaigner, Mrs Molly Blackburn, due to be held today in the black township of Port Elizabeth, has been banned by police. Twenty thousand blacks attended her funeral.

## Bank raid claim

A bank cashier helped to plan a robbery at her own bank and was later awarded £1,750 compensation for her ordeal during the raid, the prosecution alleged at St Albans Crown Court.

## Gartcosh March

Scottish steelworkers led Gartcosh steel plant in Lanarkshire on a 450-mile march to London in protest at the planned closure of the works.

## Reagan mission

President Reagan flew to a summit in Mexico City to be dominated by his chief of staff and measures to avert a Soviet nuclear war.

## Air crash kills plot officers

A group of Nigerian officers held on coup plot charges were killed when a plane bringing them to Lagos crashed at Kaduna on New Year's Eve, the Nigerian Government announced. The plane was a presidential jet.

## Year of hope

Despite setbacks in the City in 1985, the experts reveal expectations for the investor of a bullish New Year for Britain.

## Heysel switch

Three of the senior police officers in charge of security during the Heysel football stadium riots last year have been removed from active duty.

## Lonrho closure

Mr Roland "Tay" Rowland's Lonrho has closed its subsidiary, Lonrho Chemicals, blaming the Government for its inability to operate the company profitably.

## Drug epidemic

Drug abuse increased around the world last year, despite tough counter-measures, in many countries according to the International Narcotics Control Board's annual report.

## 250 lose jobs

Commodore International, the American home computer company, has closed its production lines in Corby, Northamptonshire, making 250 people redundant.

## Farley puzzle

Scientists fear they may never find the source of the salmonella infection at the Farley baby food factory.

## India hit 600

Three batsmen scored centuries as India amassed a total of 600 for four wickets declared against Australia in the third and final Test at Sydney.

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# Carrier force sails as US increases pressure on Libya

By Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

The Reagan Administration yesterday increased sharply its campaign of psychological pressure against Libya, which it has accused of being behind last week's terrorist attacks at Rome and Vienna airports.

A task force led by the aircraft carrier *Coral Sea*, set sail from its base in Naples in the direction of the Libyan coast, while in Washington senior officials said they were studying options for possible military retaliation.

At the same time the US again urged its European allies, which have been the focus of a spate of recent Arab terrorist attacks, to impose political and economic sanctions against Libya.

At the United Nations, Libya denied vigorously that it had been involved either directly or indirectly in the December 27 attacks in Rome and Vienna, believed to have been carried out by the Libyan-backed Abu Nidal group.

In a letter to Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General, Mr Ali Triki, the Libyan Foreign Minister, vigorously condemned the attacks, which he described as "deplorable blood outrages".

He accused the US and Israel, which has also threatened retaliatory action, of using the terrorist incidents as a pretext for aggression.

Echoing the sentiments of Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, at a press conference earlier in the week, he said that any attack against Libya would have "dangerous results" for international peace and security.

Libya's stand was supported yesterday by Iran, which promised "unwavering support" for Libya in the event of a "foreign invasion".

It is still too early to say whether US and Israeli threats of revenge strikes will be carried out. It is likely, however, that the US will avoid joint action with Israel, as it does not wish to alienate Arab countries.

The Pentagon is also conscious of the danger military action might have to the lives of some 1,500 US citizens living in Libya.

There is no doubt, however, that Washington will use the airport killings as a lever to persuade European countries to sever trade and political links with the Gaddafi regime.

Britain cut relations with Libya two years ago, but has refused economic sanctions on the ground that they are ineffective. About 5,000 Britons live in Libya.

Other European countries retain substantial political and economic ties with Libya which they would be most unwilling to sever despite mounting evi-

dence of Libyan support for terrorism.

For instance, West Germany yesterday rejected US calls for sanctions as inappropriate, even though a Bonn spokesman said there was substantial evidence that Libya was behind last week's attacks.

Further evidence of Tripoli's involvement in terrorist activities has emerged in Spain, where three Libyans have been expelled for what was euphemistically described as "matters relating to Palestinian questions".

The Athens government has come under criticism for allowing the eight free. Opposition critics claiming it was trying to protect its relations with the PLO.

In Rome the Cabinet yesterday approved a Bill aimed at tightening security control in the wake of the airport attacks.

Tourists intending to stay more than 30 days will have to report to police within three days of arrival.

In Brussels two suspected Arab terrorists arrested on Monday were charged yesterday with forming a "criminal association" with the intention of "attacking persons and property". They were remanded.

Iran raises tension, US weighs options, page 4

## Westland warned of £1bn loss if US deal is backed

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Westland could lose more than £1 billion worth of European business if the helicopter company's shareholders opt for the United Technologies offer.

The warning followed publication of a letter from Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, openly denying the Prime Minister with a stark warning about the threats faced by Westland.

Sources close to the United Technologies-Fiat bid last night denounced Mr Heseltine's "incredible charade" and said they were astonished by the behaviour of British ministers.

In a letter to Sir John Cuckney, chairman of Westland, Mrs Margaret Thatcher went to great lengths on Thursday to "lead a delicate" way between the United Technologies-Fiat offer for a minority Westland stake and the Anglo-European offer favoured by Mr Heseltine.

Mr Heseltine diverged considerably last night in a letter of his own, to Mr David Horne, of Lloyds Merchant Bank, which is representing part of the Anglo-European consortium.

Mr Heseltine said his ministry had "no intention of buying the Sikorsky Black Hawk helicopter which is the basis of the American-Fiat bid; that there was no precedent for Westland exporting a helicopter which it could not sell at home; and that three European collaborative projects were threatened by an 'incompatible' Sikorsky-Fiat link-up with Westland.

Mr Thatcher had said on Thursday that this threat of

retaliation was the "current" indication from European companies and governments.

But she added that British participation was "an important element" in the viability of European projects and that the Government would "fight" "unpleasantly" to discriminate against Westland. There were no such qualifications in Mr Heseltine's letter.

Other Westland sources said last night that European threat had to be taken "with a pinch of salt", an element absent from Mr Heseltine's letter. The same sources and those close to United Technologies-Fiat expressed private amazement that Mr Heseltine should so openly defy Mrs Thatcher.

But one of Mr Heseltine's backers said the letter was designed as a "complication" of the move "cryptic" points made by the Prime Minister.

Another said it would be "a tragedy" if Westland acceptance of the United Technologies-Fiat bid killed off Westland, because of a failure to sell Black Hawk and all chances of British participation in European collaborative helicopter projects.

The next battle in the Westland war is expected to be over the timing of the extraordinary shareholders' meeting, currently scheduled for January 14.

While the Anglo-European consortium is campaigning for delay, United Technologies-Fiat are impatient for a decision, fully expecting next Monday's Westland board meeting to endorse their bid.

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Woodrow West, page 3  
Improved bid, back page

## 2,800 jobs expected from boat orders

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

The orders for submarines and torpedoes worth about £900m announced yesterday by the Ministry of Defence, expected to create about 2,800 new jobs.

The ministry also expects to achieve savings of more than £70 million on these contracts through its use of new competitive policies.

The orders were announced by Mr Norman Lamont, Minister of State for Defence Procurement. As forecast in *The Times* yesterday the contracts are for the construction of three diesel-powered Type 2400 Upholder class submarines, one nuclear-powered Trafalgar class hunter-killer submarine, and for the main production order for the Stingray anti-submarine light torpedo.

All the submarines have been ordered from Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering (VSEL) group. Work on the first of the diesel-powered vessels will start this month at Cammell Laird shipyard on Merseyside, which is a subsidiary of Vickers.

The company said that it intended to build the second and third of the submarines at Cammell Laird. A considerable amount of work for the vessels would, however, be carried out at Vickers' main yard at Barrow-in-Furness.

The nuclear-powered submarine would also be constructed there.

Vickers estimates that the diesel submarines would provide work for six years and Continued on back page, col 5

## Cricket officials await reactions on ban

English cricket authorities were still waiting to hear last night whether there were to be further repercussions around the world following Bangladesh's decision to ban four England players with South African connections (Richard Stretton writes).

A Government decision from Harare is expected early next week about the England B team's scheduled visit to Zimbabwe in February and March.

Reaction to Bangladesh's action from Caribbean countries, where the full England side start a tour later this month, is also anxiously awaited.

The Foreign Office, conscious that sport and politics never mix, spent much of yesterday evening suggesting that the Government should intervene in a dispute which is threatening to split the cricket world.

Mr John Carlisle, Conservative MP for Luton North and chairman of his party's Parliamentary sports committee, urged Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, to obtain assurances that England's West Indies tour should not suffer as the border village of Belcoo on December 19.

Two applications for bail have failed and he is likely to remain in custody awaiting trial until well after polling day, January 23. Warrants for the release of 15 Unionist MPs in protest at the Anglo-Irish agreement were signed by Mr Bernard Weatherall, the Speaker, at Westminster yesterday.

Mr Carron was elected to Westminster at the height of the 1981 hunger-strike crisis, after leading the campaign in support of Mr Bobby Sands,

the first hunger-striker to die, who was elected MP for the constituency while on his fatal fast.

In line with Provisional Sinn Féin's policy of abstention, Mr Carron never took up his Westminster seat and was ousted in the 1983 election by Mr Ken Maginnis, the outgoing Official Unionist MP.

Mr Maginnis is in his party's security spokesman and former headmaster and part time major in the UDR.

With an SDLP candidate, Mr Austin Currie, also in the

eleventh hour cancellation like the Bangladesh tour.

The Foreign Office response was that the Government did not intend to get involved in talks on this issue. "This is a matter for the cricket authorities," a spokesman said.

The England B team are still visiting Sri Lanka for five weeks and leave London next Wednesday. An additional three-day game has been arranged for them in Colombo.

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## Sinn Fein candidate to fight poll from cell

Provisional Sinn Féin has nominated Mr Owen Carron, the former MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone, to fight this month's by-election from his prison cell.

Mr Carron, who was the abstentionist MP for Fermanagh from 1981-83, was refused bail on Monday on an arrest charge and is being held in custody awaiting trial. He is accused of possessing a rifle, ammunition and information related to terrorists in the form of a UDR handbook, following his arrest after a car chase near

the border village of Belcoo on December 19.

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A skier's view of Innsbruck in Austria during practice at the Beig 1st site for today's ski-jumping event there in the World Cup series

## Labour to pin hopes on manufacturing

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Editor

The Labour Party leader Mr Neil Kinnock will this month spearhead a co-ordinated effort by senior members of the shadow Cabinet to convince the electorate that it offers the best chance of regenerating the British economy by restoring the country's manufacturing base.

The campaign, codenamed "Party of Production", is seen by Labour leaders as setting the agenda before the general election by defining the recovery of manufacturing as the

key to the country's economic revival. Mr Kinnock, who will launch the campaign in a major speech to the Industrial Society on January 20, is understood to take the view that Labour has to concentrate on defining its economic and industrial policy, rather than allowing issues like the continuing divisions over Liverpool to dominate public and media attention.

The four Opposition spokesmen who will launch the campaign will be blunt in saying that the strength of a manufacturing base will depend on an accelerating increase in productivity, and that a rapid increase in employment will not necessarily be an immediate result.

The four, besides Mr Kinnock, are Mr Roy Hattersley, shadow Chancellor, Mr John Smith, industry spokesman, and Mr John Prescott, employment spokesman. They will argue that moves to reverse the decline in manufacturing are essential to prevent balance of payments problems which would otherwise frustrate efforts to create jobs.

The initiative for the campaigning speeches has come from the leader's own office and Mr John Eastwell, Mr Kinnock's new economic adviser, is understood to have played a prominent role.

The speeches will emphasize that the Government's concentration of the service industries, including those dependent on tourism, does nothing to prevent the growth of imports, which Labour will argue threatens the balance of payments.

Mr Kinnock is expected to go all out to associate the party with rapid technological change, not only in the so called "high tech" industries like semi-conductors - which the party believes are unlikely to produce more than some 60,000 jobs between now and 1990 - but also in traditional industries like textiles, where some 300,000 jobs have been lost since 1979.

Labour leaders will emphasize that rapid technological change, assisted if necessary by government, is needed if these industries are to hold their own against Far Eastern competition.

The speeches will also emphasize in direct reference to interest rates that the lending sector must be able to offer "capital at prices that industry can afford", and that exchange controls must be introduced which will ensure that an "export-promoting pound" - in other words a sterling level which makes Britain a competitive exporter.

Unemployment politics, page 2

## Britain's reserves plunge by \$416m

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Britain's gold and foreign currency reserves recorded the biggest fall for three years last month, as the Bank of England acted to stop the pound from falling.

The underlying drop in reserves of \$416 million (£289 million) was the sixth monthly fall in a row and biggest since December, 1982.

No official explanation was provided, however, it is known that the Bank of England stepped in to prop up the pound in the aftermath of the meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries meeting in Geneva on December 8-9.

OPEC's decision to raise output at the expense of lower oil prices sent the pound tumbling by more than 5 cents in two days. This raised fears of a repeat of last January's sterling crisis.

The fall in the reserves last month provides a further indication of the Government's determination to maintain a strong pound to bear down on inflation.

In September, the Government topped up the reserves by \$2.5 billion by borrowing on the Euromarkets. Even so, the present level of \$15,543 billion is only just over half of that five years ago. The actual drop in reserves last month, before adjustments for foreign currency borrowing and repayments, was \$433 million.

The relatively low level of Britain's reserves has to be set against the huge volume of turnover on the foreign exchange markets. If oil prices weaken again, the pound may be kept up only by, at best, keeping interest rates high, at worst raising them further.

Some of the recent drop in Britain's reserves has been in line with the agreement reached between the Group of Five countries - the United States, Britain, West Germany, France and Japan - in New York on September 22, to push down the value of the dollar.

This agreement has been generally successful, sending the dollar down sharply against the yen and mark in particular.

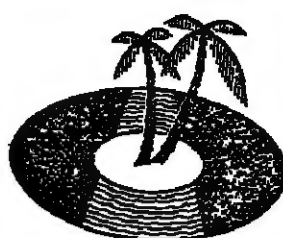
However, it received a setback yesterday when Mr Sotetsu Sumita, Governor of the Bank of Japan, said in Tokyo that he did not want the yen to rise any further. Mr Sumita, quoted by Japan's Kyodo news agency, said that he wanted yen stability at a level of 200 to the dollar. His comments sent the dollar up from Thursday's five-year low of 198 yen, to nearly 203.

The pound was pushed down again by the stronger dollar, dipping by three-quarters of a cent to \$1.4387. The sterling index against all reflecting small gains for the pound against the European currencies.

Kenneth Fleet, page 11

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## MONDAY



## The city that still trembles

Mental aftermath of Mexico's earthquake

## When the men come first

Wives who sacrifice careers for husbands

## Are you leaving your heirs more tax than capital?

Naturally you want to leave all of your estate to your family or dependants or at least to someone of your choosing. But the truth is that without some forward planning your heirs will receive only what is left after the Inland Revenue take their share in the form of Capital Transfer Tax.

And that share can be quite dramatic. For example, on an estate of £300,000 (including house, contents, personal effects, stocks and shares, bonds, trusts, cash, life assurance and any inheritances) the Exchequer stands to be the largest beneficiary.

If there were two children they would each get £97,500 but the Exchequer would take £105,000.

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## Union gives firm right to leading role in secret ballot process

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Union officials have reached an agreement with an American-owned company which provides for a secret ballot before industrial action, with the company playing a leading role in the ballot process.

The agreement between Caterpillar Tractor Company and the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers is unusual because the company will have to agree to the wording of the ballot paper, is able to set out its position in a statement accompanying the ballot paper and will pay the administration costs.

Union and management reached the deal at the company's plant at Desfontaines, near Leicester, where about 440 manual workers are employed. It is part of a wide-ranging agreement, stretching over two years, which introduces fundamental changes in working practices.

An eight-grade pay structure covering 31 job titles is reduced to five grades with only 12 jobs descriptions, linked to a greater degree of flexibility. In return employees have received a 7 per cent pay increase plus a £200 lump sum, and later this year are guaranteed a 5 per cent rise with another one-off payment of £200.

The deal is a further example of the growing willingness of trade union negotiators to reach agreements lasting more than the traditional 12 months, and

which involve mechanisms that make industrial action most unlikely. An AUEW district official said last night that he expected the format to become standard within the next five or six years.

The agreement states that "the union will neither condone nor support industrial action against the company" until all domestic and national disputes procedures have been exhausted, and only after a secret ballot of all hourly-paid workers to determine their support for the action proposed.

Caterpillar management has agreed to provide clerical help and cover the cost of printing the ballot papers and postage. In addition to insisting that the wording of the paper is agreed with the union, it insisted that the company's position should be made known.

A company statement, in such an eventuality, would be accompanied by an outline of the AUEW position. There is provision for the ballot to be supervised by officials of the white collar union Apex, which is recognized by the company.

The union said last night that the company had been keen on inserting a balloting clause and that, in return, there was acceptance by the management that the temporary labour it will be allowed to recruit will be restricted to 10 per cent of the total payroll.

## Search for Stonehenge festival site fails

By Hugh Clayton

Environment Correspondent

The search for a peaceful site for the Stonehenge pop festival has failed, English Heritage, which owns the monument, said yesterday.

However, one of the co-ordinators of the hippy convoy which annually visits Stonehenge for the summer solstice festival gave a warning of "a month of aggravation" in June.

Last year's event was marred by violent clashes with the police, and English Heritage had hoped to find a site near the ancient stones for the main convoy. About 1,000 people would then have been admitted to the stone circle, probably by ticket.

"We have had to call the whole thing off. It is very difficult to divide people up and let them in on the basis of whether they are a druid or not," a spokesman for English Heritage said.

The plan for an alternative site near the stones was opposed by the Wiltshire police and members of the county council, while local landowners refused to offer land.

The convoy co-ordinator, who declined to be named, said that the festival would definitely go ahead in June on a larger scale than last year. Their would also be a similar, smaller festival at the summer and autumn equinoxes and at the winter solstice.

"They will have four head-aches instead of one," he said. English Heritage said that a meeting on the search for a suitable site planned for Monday would still be held even though there was nothing to offer the festival-goers.



Gartoch steelworkers begin their protest march to London yesterday

## SDP deeply divided over advertising on BBC

A division between leading members of the Social Democrats over whether the BBC should continue to be supported by a licence fee or by advertising is to be settled after a full debate at the party's conference later this month. This is the first time in the five years of the party's existence that such a step has been taken.

Two distinct and evenly balanced bodies of opinion emerged when the issue was debated by the party's policy committee, at two long meetings. Although no vote was taken, it was decided to submit the opposing views to the next meeting of the Council for Social Democracy at Bath on Sunday, January 26.

Dr David Owen, the party leader, who presided at both meetings, is said to be uncomfortable on the issue. The case for abolition of the licence fee and use of advertising revenue to support some BBC services will be put to the conference by Mr Charles Kennedy, MP for Ross, Cromarty and Skye.

His resolution will say that the licence fee is no longer a fair or acceptable method of financing the BBC and that the method is not as independent of government as has been claimed.

To replace the licence fee, the resolution will call for advertising for some services, coupled with a five-yearly government grant fixed after the advice of an independent broadcasting audit commission.

The opposing point of view will be put by Mr Roger Liddle, leader of the SDP group on Lambeth Borough Council, London. He will criticize the appointment of the Peacock committee on broadcasting as an attempt to rush fundamental reform without proper consideration of their effects.

His resolution if passed would commit the council to opposing introduction of advertising on any national network of BBC television or radio and call for retention of the licence fee to give the BBC a clear independent source of finance.

## Unionists fall out over £100 banner

A dispute broke out yesterday between the Lord Mayor of Belfast, Alderman John Carson, an Official Unionist, and his party colleague and group leader, Councillor Alfred Redcar, over who should foot the bill for a huge banner to be draped across the front of the city hall.

The banner, proclaiming Belfast Says No, is expected to be in place this afternoon before participants of an 80-mile five-day protest march from Londonderry against the Hillsborough agreement reach their destination, the headquarters of the new Anglo-Irish secretariat, four miles beyond the city at Maryfield.

Official Unionist Party and Democratic Unionist members of the council secured a 25-14 vote to hoist the banner indefinitely when the council met on Thursday night against the opposition of the Social Democratic and Labour party and Alliance party members and the abstention of the two Sinn Féin councillors. They also voted to suspend all council business for a third month in succession.

Mr Redcar believes the ratepayers should bear the cost of the banner of an estimated £100 and argues that it reflects the majority view of the city. His argument is rejected by those who voted for it, himself included, should meet the bill. He enjoys the support of the town clerk who has said that it is likely to be ruled an inadmissible charge against the ratepayers.

Sir John Hermon, the RUC chief constable, who led police and Army mountaineers at the funeral yesterday of the first of two victims of the Provisional IRA bomb in Armagh in the first minutes of the year, heard a strong plea for the Government to provide better security.

"Don't tell us everything possible is being done. We do not believe this to be true," the Rev Reginald Twissell said at the funeral of Constable James "Drew" McCandles in Portadown in Co Armagh.

## Moves to support BBC men

By David Hewson

Arts Correspondent

Senior BBC journalists moved to support their two colleagues suspended over the Rough Justice programme yesterday as Mr Bill Cotton, managing director of BBC TV, told the men in a letter the reasons for the disciplinary action.

Senior journalists within the BBC said that both men, punished for using "unjustified threats" to obtain an interview for a programme that led to the freeing from jail of an innocent man, would be welcome to work for programmes throughout the BBC.

Senior BBC executives had wanted to dismiss the men after complaints in the Court of Appeal by Lord Lane that they had embarked upon an "investigation by menaces". But after investigations on their behalf by a wide range of BBC officials and outside parties, both were suspended without pay for three months, barred from investigative journalism for two years, and issued with final warnings.

In the letter to the two men, Mr Cotton clears them of a allegation that they threatened to expose a witness as a lesbian in order to obtain an interview. But he says that the transcripts provided by both men gave a very clear indication that, instead of approaching the witness as inquiring journalists, they had a fixed idea of the truth which they then set out to prove.

Mr Cotton writes: "I find that your dealings with Miss Fitzpatrick showed serious error of judgement, that you overstepped the boundaries of legitimate investigative journalism and that you strayed into unacceptable and threatening behaviour."

The BBC says that the suspensions will not affect the televising of the next series of Rough Justice which is due on the air next year.

## Text of Heseltine letter on Westland

The following is the text of a letter from Mr Michael Heseltine in reply to one from David Horne, of Lloyds Merchant Bank.

Dear Mr Horne,

Thank you for your letter of today's date about HMG's procurement plans for military helicopters. The answers to your questions are as follows:

1. Is there a requirement for a helicopter for the purchase of the Blackhawk helicopter in the MOD forward programme?

As I have already explained publicly the Ministry of Defence has had under consideration a Staff Target (AST 404) for a Light Support Helicopter which it was originally envisaged might have an in-service date of about 1990. There were three main contenders which it was assessed could meet this target: the W30-404 (Westland plc), the Super Puma (Aerospace) and the Black Hawk (Short Brothers Ltd in association with Sikorsky). It was announced in March 1985 that the Army was reviewing its requirements and that the Staff Target was in abeyance.

There is in any case no provision in the Defence Budget to procure helicopters of this type by the assumed in-service date. To find funds for such a purchase from within the presently planned Defence Budget would involve removing items of higher military priority than we are not prepared to do. The Government therefore has no intention of procuring the Black Hawk helicopter, whether offered by Short Brothers Ltd in association with Sikorsky or by Westland plc in association with Sikorsky.

2. Does the Ministry of Defence have any knowledge of a military helicopter type being exported by Westland plc when that helicopter was not also part of the inventory of the British Services?

I am advised that there has been no such export.

3. Further to the Prime Minister's letter of January 1 to Sir John Cuckney of Westland plc.

John Cuckney, what are the projects which HMG have indications from European governments and companies may be lost to Westland if the United Technologies/Fiat proposals are accepted?

There are three future helicopter projects intended to form the core of the fleet of the British Armed Services in the longer term all of which are planned to be produced collaboratively. At the battlefield helicopter level Britain has been intending to proceed with a feasibility study with Italy which, in the event of Westland proceeding with a link with the British/European consortium, would not be subsumed in a five nation collaborative project (United Kingdom, Italy, The Federal Republic of Germany, France and The Netherlands) on which Defence Ministers have agreed to instruct their staff to produce detailed proposals. In the 8-9 tonne class feasibility studies have commenced of a helicopter known as NH 90 under a Memorandum of Understanding involving the same five countries. Westland are currently participating in the feasibility study. In the 13 tonne class a bilateral programme has been established between the United Kingdom (Westland plc) and Italy (Agusta) for the EH 101 helicopter. Full development was launched in 1984 and initial production versions are planned to be available by about 1990. There are indications available to HMG from both the other Governments and the companies concerned that a Westland link with Sikorsky/Fiat would be incompatible with participation by that company on behalf of the United Kingdom in the collaborative battlefield helicopter and NH 90 projects. There have been separate indications from Agusta that if the Westland deal with Sikorsky went through Agusta would have to seek other partners.

I am copying this letter to Sir John Cuckney of Westland plc.

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## Money rolls in for rebel councillors

Liverpool Labour councillors are confident of raising sufficient funds to pay for lawyers to defend their High Court action against surcharge orders.

It is expected that legal costs will amount to £130,000. At one stage there was such a poor response to the appeal for funds that the 48 councillors would have to give up their action.

The appeal organizers say they have been "overwhelmed" with offers of support, mainly from trade union branches, but also from the public.

Already £26,500 has been paid to the lawyers to enable preparatory work to take place. The executive council of the Transport and General Workers' Union has agreed to stand as guarantor for the outstanding funds.

The union's general secretary, Mr Ron Todd, said yesterday that the Liverpool councillors had written asking for help. "We took the decision to act as

## Steelmen start march to London

By Ronald Fairfax

Scottish steelworkers started yesterday on a 450-mile "save Gartoch" march to London. The mobile demonstration in support of the Lanarkshire steel plant, which is to close in three months with the loss of 700 jobs, began at the gates.

The steelmen plan to spend 11 days walking in relays to London in nine-man teams. They have invited prominent figures in Scottish life to join them on the way.

When they arrive they plan to lobby MPs and to seek a meeting with the Prime Minister to ask him to intervene in the decision by the British Steel Corporation to shut the plant.

Two mobile homes will support the march, which will head south to Canisford and Corby where steel communities have already felt the effect of mass closures.

## Unions meet on Murdoch demand

By David Felton

Labour Correspondent

The main Fleet Street print unions have started a series of meetings which will culminate at the end of next week in the largest demonstration since the 1976-77 strike, in support of the call for industrial action by workers at the four national newspapers owned by News International, whose chairman is Mr Rupert Murdoch.

A joint meeting of the *News of the World* and *The Sunday Times* (office branches) of the National Union of Journalists

yesterday heard reports of the breakdown of negotiations on the company's demand for a no-strike, legally binding agreement to cost-of-living indexation of future pay awards.

The National Graphical Association and Sogat '82 will hold meetings next week of members employed by News International, which also owns *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*. Sogat '82 is due to hold its ballot on Friday, to seek authorization for industrial action.

The campaign is aimed at winning a "jobs-for-life" guarantee for members at the four newspapers, with company agreement to cost-of-living indexation of future pay awards.

But a left-wing coalition is pressing for more direct action involving joint industrial action by all channels in newspapers in the Murdoch group in Britain, joint agreements which preserve the right to strike and the closed shop, and the establishment of committees to co-ordinate action.

## The politics of unemployment: 5

## Value of service sector jobs disputed

In the final article on government efforts to reduce unemployment before the next general election, DONALD MACINTYRE discusses opposing views on how to create new jobs.

transport, are believed to depend.

According to ministerial estimates, between 1 million jobs and 1.5 million jobs depend directly or indirectly on tourism and it is potentially among the fastest growing areas of the economy.

Hand in hand with the importance of the service sector goes the role, emphasized again and again in government statements, of small firms and self-employment.

But there is real argument about how far growth in service industries has increased employment and how far it is a trend that should be fostered at the expense of manufacturing industry.

A TUC analysis to go before next week's economic committee sharply questions whether the "recovery" in employment, yielding a net increase of about 440,000 in numbers in employment, is as significant as the Government would like to make out.

It suggests that up to 40 per cent of the jobs may result from "second jobbing" by workers already in employment, that the majority of new jobs have been part-time, taken by women, and that at least some of the growth of self-employment has been the

replacement simply of jobs previously held by employees, for example in construction.

The TUC critique goes further. Union leaders will press their case for more direct assistance to the manufacturing sector with publication of its pre-Budget submission to the Chancellor. A part of an expansionist reconstruction programme costing more than £7.5 billion over five years, it suggests in the first year £900 million to help manufacturing through capital allowances, an investment acceleration scheme, expansion of regional aid and a boost for exports through improved credit.

Another course has been put forward by Mr Gavyn Davies, a leading City economist, in the latest *Employment Institute* bulletin. He maintains that expansionist policies could make a real impact on unemployment, without pushing up inflation, if they were specifically targeted at sections least likely to contribute to the upwards wage spiral, such as the long-term unemployed and those in the deprived regions.

Mr Davies takes the line that a minimum of 250,000 extra places on the Community Programme, which the Government is considering expanding

at a cost of £600 million, should be "supplied with a £100 a week subsidy to private employers for every additional long-term unemployed person it takes into a permanent job."

He argues that, allowing for tax benefits, the overall public Sector Borrowing Requirement but employment would be raised by 500,000. Net spending of £1 billion on infrastructure improvements, advocated by the TUC, could also create 200,000 extra jobs.

JOBS: GAINS AND LOSSES		
Sector	Number of jobs (Jan 84 to Jan 85)	% change
Services	+78,000	+4.3
Manufacturing, ex. food	-47,000	-2.7
Health, social work	+41,000	+4.1
Other services (pubs, etc.)	+34,000	+1.8
Wholesale and retail trade	+28,000	+2.0
Transport	+22,000	+1.7
Construction	-19,000	-2.2
Manufacturing, food	+18,000	+1.0
Public admin, education	+15,000	+1.0
Other manufacturing	+14,000	+1.0
Metals and engineering	+13,000	+1.0
Chemical and allied	+12,000	+1.0
Textiles, clothing	+11,000	+1.0
Other transport	+10,000	+1.0
Construction	-9,000	-1.0
Coal, oil, etc.	-8,000	-1.0
Electricity, gas, water	-7,000	-1.0
Agriculture	-6,000	-1.0

Concluded

## Thoresen dispute settled

The dispute that had halted Townsend Thoresen, ferries from Dover since December 13 was settled yesterday when about 2,000 Dover-based seamen voted at a 70-minute meeting to accept an agreement setting up a new procedure for dealing with grievances and disputes. Normal services are expected to be resumed within 24 hours.

The dispute began with disagreement over planning levels and the enlargement of freight-carrying capacity on two large ships. The men staged a 72-hour strike, and the company responded by moving the ferries from Dover to Dunkirk, effectively imposing a lockout.

The seamen then received letters from management demanding an end to "disruptive industrial action" before services to Calais, Boulogne and Zeebrugge were re-started. The National Union of Seamen said yesterday: "This is the first time we have had a procedure agreement to deal with logical grievances and disputes which allows for independent arbitration."

## Vineyard sold

Britain's oldest commercial vineyard has been sold for well in excess of the £400,000 asking price to a London businessman after intense competition home and abroad.

Hambleton Vineyards was put on the market at the end of last year after the death of Sir Arthur Guy Salisbury-Jones, the "father" of Britain's modern vineyard industry. He planted his vineyard on the southern slopes of Windmill Down, Hambleton, Hampshire, at the end of the Second World War.

The Times overseas selling prices for the week ending January 3, 1986:

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## Cashier got compensation after helping to raid own bank, court is told

A bank cashier helped to mastermind a hold-up at her own bank, then picked up a cash award for her ordeal, St Albans Crown Court was told yesterday.

Mrs Annette White, aged 31, was pushed, bound and gagged and left in the bank's strong room during the £64,000 robbery last May.

But it was all a charade. Afterwards she put on such a convincing act as a robbery victim that her employers awarded her £1,750 compensation.

Mr Robert Marshall-Andrews, for the prosecution, said Mrs White had provided the two robbers with the layout of the bank, given them details of the movement of her colleagues, and told them where to find the money.

Mrs White, of Broad Stone Road, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, pleaded not guilty to robbery and a second charge of obtaining compensation by deception.

Mr Marshall-Andrews said that the robbery at the Lloyds sub-branch at The Quadrant, St Albans, had been carried out by a father and daughter team, Derrick Cracknell, aged 60, and Gillian Walker, aged 34. Both were well known to Mrs White.

and the women had been friends since 1979. "Annette White had provided them with substantial information about the bank. She was actually aware of the facts that the robbery was going to take place and she had provided information which had allowed the robbery to take place", he said.

The court was told that Cracknell and his daughter had tricked one of Mrs White's colleagues into opening the bank door before the official opening time. They pretended to be armed and forced their way inside where Mrs White and her male colleague were tied up while the safe was rifled.

The raiders knew that the bank manager would be away from the building at the time of the robbery. Mrs White had also told them that her bank colleague, Mr Ian Herbert, was "weedy" and would give them no trouble.

Mr Marshall-Andrews said that in the days leading up to the robbery, Mrs White had ordered extra money to be placed in the safe so that the haul would be a large one. Mrs White would normally be there.

The crown says she was

stocking the bank up because this robbery was going to take place and she knew it", he said.

The jury was told that the money was left in the hands of a "minder", who hid the haul in his loft. When the gang, including Mrs White, was arrested last June police recovered just over half the money that had been stolen.

A total of £10,000 was found in a drawer at Mrs White's home. She had told police of plans for her and Walker to purchase a video shop in Peterborough. More sums of money were found with Cracknell and his daughter.

Mr Marshall-Andrews said that Mrs White had been paid £1,750 by Lloyds bank, who had assumed she was the innocent victim of a "terrifying" robbery.

Walker, of Peterborough, who is serving a four-year jail term for her part in the robbery, told the jury that Mrs White had often joked about robbing the bank where she worked. She said Mrs White had handed her plans to the bank and told her what was the best time she and her father should strike. Cracknell is also serving four years for the robbery.

The case continues on Monday.

## Water rate to rise by average 8%

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

Water rates in most of England and Wales will rise by an average of 8 per cent in the spring, according to the latest government forecast, based on talks with the 10 water authorities.

It will be the second successive year that millions of householders face water charges increases higher than the cost of living. But ministers do not expect any water authority to raise charges by more than 10 per cent, although some feared last year that charges might have to go up by as much as 13 per cent.

The rises will mean that most householders will pay less than 30p a day still for water supplies and sewerage services. The highest average charge last year was £105.98 a year, or 25p a day, in the Anglian area. The lowest was £76.16 a year, or 21p a day, in the Severn-Trent region, which includes Birmingham, a much of the Midlands.

The large increases will be caused by the Government's insistence again on accelerated repayment of water authority debts and on shorter-term financing of new equipment.

Demand for water continues to creep upwards. Total water supplies in England and Wales rose by more than half between 1960 and 1984 to reach 16.5 billion litres a day.

Less than a tenth of the purified water that enters households is drunk. The latest estimates from the Water Authorities' Association show that the main single use of water is to flush lavatories. More than a third of the water used is for making tea.

HOUSEHOLD WATER USE	
(ave % of total supplied)	
Flushing lavatories	27
Baths and showers	12
Washing machines	12
Used outside the home	12
Dishwasher	12
Other, including drinking, cooking, heating type	26
Alcoholic drinks	37
Drinks of cold water	12
Soft drinks	12
Others, including cooking	26

Figures for alcoholic and soft drinks include water in the bottled or canned drink and any water added.

Source: Water Authorities' Association.

## Food poison source may never be traced

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Scientists investigating the salmonella infection at the Farley baby food factory in Kendal, Cumbria, are becoming increasingly concerned that the source of the outbreak may never be found.

Failure to identify precisely the circumstances leading to the contamination of milk products will leave troubling questions unanswered in spite of improved safety procedures likely to be introduced by the company, as a result of the incident.

Since November, 43 cases of food poisoning, involving 31 babies under a year old, have been linked to the factory. A baby in Manchester has died.

Circumstantial evidence has implicated a case of *Salmonella enteritidis* - a rare strain of the bacterium found in the factory - with a dairy cow in the county.

That animal was found to have the infection last April. A four-year-old child in the farmer's family also showed symptoms, but although the family drank unpasteurized milk from the herd, no trace of the bacterium was found in the milk. It was tested by veterinary inspectors.

Milk from that herd is taken into the Farley plant in a raw form, but is then subjected to heat treatment, much more intense than the norm for pasteurization.

Earlier this week, traces of the bacterium were found in the factory's cleaning system. Investigators now have to consider who, or what, was the carrier of the infection.

All 320 staff at the factory are submitting stool samples for analysis, for the second time. Those tests have so far shown no evidence of salmonella, and a third round of samples is now likely to be analysed.

"We may never know the answer but we sincerely hope we will find it," Mr Brian Hales, chief environmental health officer for the area, said yesterday.

"It is the most mysterious case of food poisoning on a national scale that I have known in 30 years in this type of work."

But he claimed he had a female witness who could allege that Miss Hayles went to his house "to have a bit of going on".

Mr Stephen Jones, for Miss Hayles, told the court: "What is alleged here is a particularly savage assault and rape on the plaintiff, and her false imprisonment. The alleged incident took place over three years ago. She had no known Mr. Burgher, of no fixed address."

Mr Jones said he believed the case was the first of its kind.

The milk is treated for up to 25 times as long, at temperatures about 17 per cent higher.

Milk from the apparently contaminated herd was excluded from the factory after the April tests, and when Ministry of Agriculture inspectors again tested the herd before Christmas, they found no signs of it.

Scientists have now almost completely ruled out the cattle connection and suspect that the infection of the baby food took place after the milk had been heat treated, evaporated, reduced to powder and dried, but before it was packed into containers.

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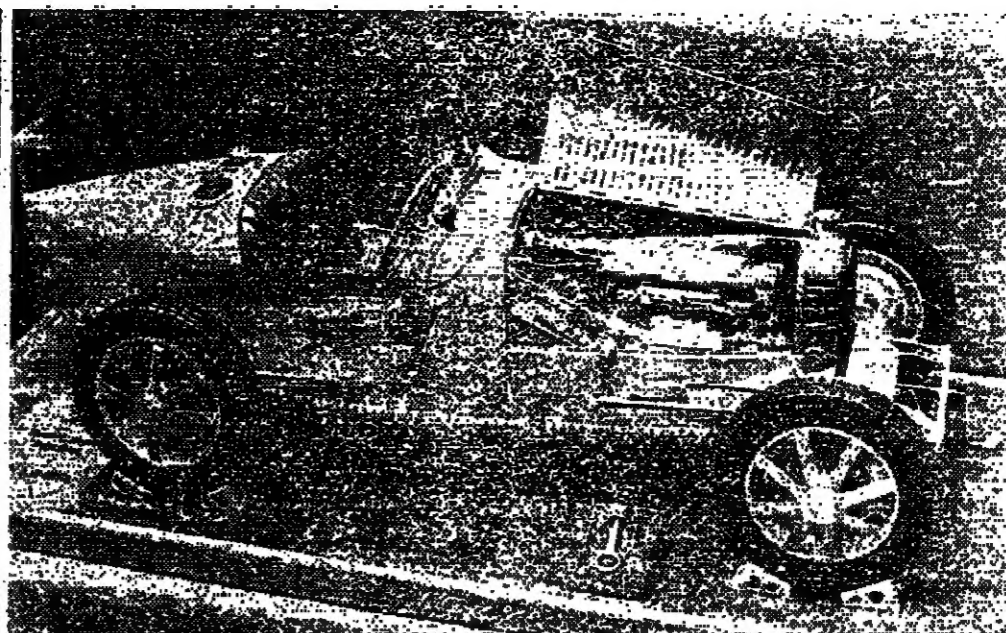
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Medal winners in the Fifty-fifth Model Engineer Exhibition at the Wembley Conference Centre yesterday. The Bugatti Type 51 (above) made by Mr L. Sellers, of Oxford, won a gold medal. The Mary Rosa, being inspected by Ian Clarke (left), and Ian Baker, won a silver medal for Peter Moran of Ackington Prison. (Photographs: Bill Warhurst.)



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## 88m days lost to arthritis

Arthritis accounts for the loss of 88 million working days in Britain each year, far more than the losses caused by strikes (our Science Correspondent writes).

The crippling disease costs more than £3 billion a year in lost wages, the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council said yesterday.

The North-east of England is the worst affected region, losing more than nine million working days at a cost of more than £285 million.

The council's report, published to mark its fiftieth anniversary, said: "Despite these figures there is more hope for people with arthritis than there was 50 years ago."

A drug to protect people from arthritis could be available within the next five to 10 years through advances in genetic engineering.

Professor Ravinder Mahal, chairman of the council's research committee, is investigating potential therapies at the Charing Cross Hospital, London, where he is professor of immunology and rheumatic diseases.

## 'Political training' for teachers

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Teachers should be trained to teach "political competence" so that children grow up to be good citizens, according to Ian Lister, professor of education at York University.

The job of political education in schools is threefold: to maintain a common ideal of citizenship; to revive patriotic loyalty and to develop wider loyalties, with some concern for European affairs and for global issues, and to encourage tolerance, even celebration, of difference and diversity.

Addressing the North of England education conference in Huddersfield yesterday, Professor Lister said schools faced a crisis. They were out of alignment with the changing world of work, with our political culture, and with community life. A new relationship was needed between education and political, economic and community leaders.

Schools must promote a "positive pluralism" so that

cultures and races were respected. "Teachers, or others, who present only one-sided accounts of controversial questions, or who claim 'there is no alternative', are rightly suspect", he said.

New teachers were asked to promote unity through diversity, he said. This was not easy. "After the fate of the Rampton committee (into the education of ethnic minorities) and after the Honeyford affair we cannot underestimate the sensitive nature of the whole area."

The crisis in education was related to the radical change in work which was coming with the decline of industrialism, he said. Nowadays children needed to develop and practise their skills rather than regurgitate facts as they needed to be assessed on whether they could do things rather than whether they knew things.

Although Professor Lister believed that teacher training was ripe for review, he did not like what the Government was doing. Under the new system, Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of

State for Education and Science, can withhold approval of a teacher training course if it does not meet his criteria.

Those criteria state that would-be primary school teachers should spend more than 100 hours in studying mathematics teaching and another 100 hours studying language teaching. Aspiring secondary school teachers should have done a degree which included at least two years on the subject they wanted to teach.

"This has the interesting implication that someone who has studied PPE (Philosophy, Politics and Economics) at Oxford is not qualified to teach any subject, as a main subject, in a secondary school."

Professor John Tomlinson, director of the University of Warwick's Institute of Education, told the conference that new ways were needed of assessing children in place of the current examination system, which meant that most children left school having failed and only a proportion succeeded.

## Drinking spree led to road death

A Smithfield porter's six-hour drinking spree led to the death of a pensioner in a "horror" road crash, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Colin Longford, aged 26, a meat market porter, of Rodney Road, Mitcham, was jailed for a year and banned from driving

for 30 months after pleading guilty to causing the death by reckless driving of Mr James Shaw, aged 67, who lived at Marsh Avenue, Mitcham.

The Recorder, Mr. Audry Myerson, QC, said Longford had consumed at least seven pints of lager before the noon crash at a busy junction in

London Road, Mitcham, on May 2 last year.

Mr Lindsay Burn for the prosecution, said Longford had driven past a red traffic light at a speed estimated by witnesses at between 30mph and 50mph. He hit another car then struck Mr Shaw.

## Eden rejected idea of union strike ballots

In the last of his surveys of Cabinet documents for 1955 released this week at the Public Records Office, DAVID WALKER finds that Sir Anthony Eden considered policies later adopted by Mrs Thatcher on trade unions, vocational education and the building of an official convention centre opposite Westminster Abbey.

A quarter of a century before Mrs Thatcher, the Conservative government led by Sir Anthony Eden considered forcing trade unions to hold secret ballots before striking action. A secret ballot memorandum prepared by Sir Walter Monckton, the Minister of Labour, discusses how to combat "a serious deterioration in industrial relations".

The first suggestion is to impose a legal requirement of a secret ballot before strike action. "To protect the individual member from pressure and to encourage a high proportion of the membership to vote, it might be preferable in some cases for the ballot to be conducted by post, and in national disputes of major importance it might be desirable for the results to be published for the information of the public," Sir Walter said.

A file of Eden's personal correspondence now available shows that he was lobbied by Lord Nuffield, founder of the Morris motor car company. Nuffield came privately to 10 Downing Street and told Eden that after a lifetime in the car industry he believed a secret

ballot alone could solve industrial problems.

He went to warn Eden that the Electrical Trades Union, forerunner of the EETPU of today, was in a "dangerous situation, being communist-led". It was a prime example, Nuffield said, of a union which would be much better if its officials were elected by secret ballot.

Within five years the ETU was wracked by allegations of ballot rigging and a fierce internal battle which brought the present Lord Chappell to power. But Eden was unconvinced, and took Monckton's conciliatory line.

Monckton, in a memorandum, said: "It is essential that any government initiative in the field of industrial relations should carry the greatest possible measure of TUC approval and concurrence."

The minister believed that secret ballots would not end unofficial action, which was then rife in the docks and transport industries. He hoped (vainly as it turned out) that the TUC could help reduce the volume of inter-union demarcation disputes.

## Concern over Labour's all-in schools policy

In a memorandum dated April 20 1955, Sir David Eccles, Minister of Education, warned his colleagues that Labour's policy of making all secondary schools into comprehensive schools would succeed, unless the Tories could come up with some answer to what he called widespread resentment on the part of parents whose children failed the 11-plus examination.

Describing the alternatives, he said: "Feelings about the 11 plus force a move towards selection for nobody or selection for all. Selection for nobody means comprehensive schools with grammar schools abolished and parents' choice practically ruled out."

"Selection for all means developing in each secondary school some special attraction and giving parents the widest possible choice."

The year was one of continuing tension between Britain and Argentina over the Falkland Islands and Argentine claims on Antarctica. In secret appreciation, the British military attacked in Buenos Aires, Brigadier C D F Wynn-Pope, said he thought that the Argentine military was the best in South

## Home computer firm to shed 250 jobs and end UK output

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

The American home computer company, Commodore International has shut its production line in Corby, Northamptonshire, making 250 people redundant but keeping 170 people for its marketing and service operation in the United Kingdom.

The company's decision comes a year after the group announced 100 redundancies at Corby after poor sales the previous Christmas.

Commodore claims that it is too early to determine the sales success of its machines this Christmas but that the job losses are due to the company rationalizing its manufacturing outlets worldwide. Corby is an assembly plant and does not fit into its new strategy, the company claims.

Commodore, whose Commodore 64 is among the most popular home computers in Britain, will concentrate its production in four plants: West Germany, Hong Kong and two in the United States. The bulk of the Corby assembly goes to West Germany.

According to Mr Thomas Rattigan, Commodore's president: "The corporate management of Commodore, including our UK general manager, have shared in this decision. Commodore's major priority is to meet the competitive challenge of the next two or three years, and to do this the company is going to be increasingly dependent upon fewer and higher technology plants. Corby, being essentially an assembly plant, does not easily fit into this strategy."

Commodore has run down the manufacturing workforce at Corby during the past year. After last January's staff re-

ductions the workforce totalled 600 and was trimmed again to 420 by the end of last year.

Sales during the last 12 months have been particularly poor in the home and personal computer market and especially for Commodore International. The company declared losses in September for the fourth quarter ending in June of \$124 million, (£86 million) compared with a profit of \$33 million for the same period in the previous year. Losses for the financial year were \$113.9 million against a \$143.8 million profit the year before.

Commodore's problems are not unique. In the UK after a poor 1984 Christmas sales retailers were left with high stocks due to over optimistic sales forecasts. A price war ensued and Sinclair, Acorn and then Commodore slashed prices in the new year. The price of the Sinclair Spectrum was reduced by £50 to £130. Acorn, the manufacturer of the BBC Microcomputer and the Electron, cut the price of the Electron by £70 to match Sinclair. Commodore followed suit.

Within weeks Acorn was struggling and it was forced to suspend its shares on the United Securities Market. By May Sinclair was also in deep financial trouble. Its principal creditors, Thorn EMI, Times and AB Electronics, all manufacturers of Sinclair products, and the company's bankers Citibank and Barclays were a total of about £15 million and had to extend the computer group's credit.

Smiths Crisp are to close their not processing plant in Corby in two weeks with the loss of 140 jobs.

## £750 fine in pirate video case

A video shop manager was fined £750 after pleading guilty to possessing pirate videos under the Video Recordings Act 1984, at Highgate Magistrates' Court yesterday.

Five copies of *Telephone*, a popular Indian film, were found at the V & A Video Centre, North Finchley, north London, when the police raided the shop on October 15 last year. Dhanji Varsani, of Churchfield Ave, pleaded guilty.

The manager, who died 18 months ago, is to be buried in the Yorkshire Dales parish of Hubberholme, where he had many friends on April 19.

Dr Fiona Campbell, senior house officer, told the inquest at Southwark that the child was treated for over-feeding and the brand of the powdered milk changed before he was sent home. The next day he died.

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## 'Overfed' baby died naturally

A baby who was treated for over-feeding died from cot death syndrome after being sent home from hospital, an inquest was told yesterday.

Gerald Faulstich, aged 14 weeks, was being fed 100g of powdered milk every two hours, instead of 60g to 70g every three to four hours, when he was admitted to King's College Hospital, south London, suffering from vomiting.

Dr Fiona Campbell, senior house officer, told the inquest at Southwark that the child was treated for over-feeding and the brand of the powdered milk changed before he was sent home. The next day he died.

Recording that he died from natural causes, Sir Montague Levine, the coroner, said: "The parents have to be shown it is not through their fault that this child died."

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# Tehran pledge to support Gadaffi raises tension closer to breaking point

By Robert Fisk, Middle East Correspondent

As a US naval task force led by the aircraft carrier Coral Sea left Naples yesterday for an undisclosed destination in the Mediterranean, Iran announced that it would respond to any American attack on Libya and give its "unwavering support" to Colonel Gadaffi's regime in the event of "foreign invasion".

The Israeli air force, the Government-controlled radio channel that large anti-American demonstrations in the towns and cities throughout the country had promised to defend a Libya against US or Israeli attack.

With Israel now threatening to retaliate for rocket attacks on northern Galilee from southern Lebanon as well as for the massacres by Palestinian guerrillas at Rome and Vienna airports, the Middle East is now embroiled in one of those all-too-familiar periods of intense political anxiety and sabre-rattling that usually precedes military action.

## PLO claims shot driver was Mossad agent

Beirut (AFP) - Force 17, a PLO group, claimed responsibility yesterday for the murder on Thursday of a taxi driver near Tel Aviv, had been shot in the head at close range.

An anonymous telephone caller to a news agency here said that a commando named after Ali Zeibak, one of 70 victims of the October 1 Israeli air raid on the PLO headquarters in Tunisia, had killed the taxi driver.

Israeli police are not ruling

out terrorism as the motive (David Bernstein reports from Jerusalem). The driver, Mr Yaacov Hashvili, from Ramle, south-east of Tel Aviv, had been shot in the head at close range.

Police say they are considering all possibilities, including terrorism. They note that Mr Hashvili was not known to them, and had no criminal record.

This was the second recent attack on a Jewish taxi, and follows the stabbing of a driver in Jerusalem last week.

## US considers military strike

From Michael Binyon, Washington

The Reagan Administration, furious at Colonel Gadaffi's support for international terrorism, is reviewing possibilities for a military strike against Libya, while urging West European allies to follow the US lead in imposing political and economic sanctions.

The aircraft carrier Coral Sea has sailed from Naples, and US forces in the central Mediterranean are being strengthened. Options for military retaliation, either in support or independent of any Israeli action, are being kept open, and the Pentagon has drawn up a contingency list of bombing targets.

The Administration is also considering offering a reward for the capture of Abu Nidal, the terrorist leader thought to be sheltering in Libya.

State Department officials are meanwhile expected to seek urgent meetings to persuade allied leaders to cut all trade and economic links with Libya in a concerted effort to cripple the country's economy.

Mr Malcolm Baldrige, the US Commerce Secretary, yesterday called on trading partners around the world to do more,

mainly in restricting oil imports from Libya.

The Administration has used ominous language in denouncing the Libyan leader. "We particularly abhor Gadaffi's making excuses for the indiscriminate slaughter of innocent men, women and children, and rejecting the fact that these were pure acts of terrorism," the State Department spokesman said. President Reagan angrily denounced "felas who think it's all right to shoot 11-year-old girls".

Despite nationwide anger and frustration at the repeated killing of Americans by terrorists, the Administration is cautious about its military options, refusing to discuss contingency plans. Though publicly scolding to reply to a Colonel Gadaffi's threat against Americans in Libya, it is well aware of the danger to the 1,500 \$860million (€600million) in US citizens there, whom it has urged repeatedly to leave.

Washington is also anxious that any military strike should not so arouse the Arab world that it endangers the peace process and weakens further the position of Arab moderates such as King Hussein of Jordan.



Lord Carrington (left) with Señor Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister, on the steps of Madrid's Moncloa Palace yesterday. Señor Narcis Serra, the Defence Minister, is in the centre.

## Nato may bend rules for Spain

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Spain's withdrawal would mean a "very grave weakening" of the Atlantic alliance, Lord Carrington, the Nato Secretary General, said here yesterday. But he linked this with a clear indication that the other Nato governments might be agreeable to Spain achieving its own special degree of participation in Western defence.

Lord Carrington made his audience laugh when he told a joint press conference with Señor González, the Spanish Prime Minister, that as he was "in a sense, the chief of Nato, I naturally prefer the menu but I understand if there are those who prefer to eat à la carte".

Spanish membership of Nato à la carte is the phrase coined here to cover Madrid's desire of not integrating fully into Nato's command structure, and for maintaining the country's non-nuclear status.

"If you look at history, quite a lot of Nato countries are in special positions; they have been understood and taken care of by the alliance. It's perfectly possible à la carte. It's for the other countries to decide how it's done," Lord Carrington said.

His visit, at the invitation of Señor González, comes a couple of months before the socialist government is expected to hold a referendum on whether Spain should stay in Nato.

"Anything is possible in Nato if the other countries are prepared or want it to happen: there are no hard and fast rules," Lord Carrington said when asked if the alliance could accept Spain's belonging to the Nato Defence Planning Com-

## Reagan flies in for Mexican summit

From John Carlin  
Mexico City, Mexico

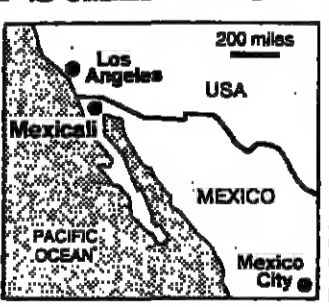
Economic and financial measures to allay fears of social unrest in Mexico were expected to be high on the agenda as President Reagan arrived by helicopter in this border town for talks with President de la Madrid.

According to American officials, President Reagan will express support for the request Mexico has made to the international financial community for new loans this year totalling \$4 billion (£2.7 billion).

At least this amount will be needed, according to economists. If it is to continue making debt payments to the banks - most of them American - and sustain a system of subsidies deemed essential to prevent widespread labour unrest.

Washington has been increasingly alarmed during the past year at the spectacle of a Mexican government apparently losing both its economic grip and its political credibility, a state which was accelerated by brazen fraud in elections in July and the earthquake catastrophe in September.

Mexico, the third biggest trading partner of the US, was obliged this week to cut the price of its oil by 90 cents, to \$24 a barrel. The prospect of a price falls this year could prove disastrous for Mexico, the economy of which depends heavily on oil for export income



## Safer birth for women over 35

From Trevor Fishlock  
New York

It has become safer for American women over 35 to have babies. The rate of deaths associated with pregnancy and childbirth has halved in the past 10 years, a report published yesterday said.

Since more women over 35 are becoming mothers for the first time, many having postponed starting a family for career reasons, the report is encouraging.

Between 1974 and 1978 the mortality rate among older women was 47.5 per 100,000 live births. In 1982 it had fallen to 24.2 deaths. In 1974-78, 9.3 per cent of women over 35 having babies were having their first child. In 1982, the percentage was 14.7 per cent.

The death rate has declined for a number of reasons, including medical advances and a greater awareness of the dangers of drugs, smoking, alcohol and poor diet. Also, women are having fewer children, and fewer children lessened the risk. In the 1970s many women over 35 were having their fourth or fifth child. In the 1980s, they are having their first or second.

The fall in the death rate can also be attributed to the higher economic and social status of older women having children. In general, poorer people have higher mortality rates.

The report, published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, says "although older women will probably continue to be at higher risk of maternal death, recent trends should be reassuring to younger women considering postponement of pregnancy and to women 35 or older contemplating pregnancy."

## Tax men catch up with Paris madame

Paris (Reuters) - Madame Grubet, better known as the notorious Madame Claude who once operated France's biggest luxury call-girl network, is under arrest on charges of owing 11 million francs (£1 million) in back taxes, officials said yesterday.

The 62-year-old "madame", who ran the most exclusive and expensive call-girl service in Paris in the 1960s and 1970s, was arrested on New Year's Eve in a small country house in the south-western village of Cagnac.

Already sentenced several times on tax and procuring charges, Madame Claude fled to the US in 1977 but is believed to have returned shortly before her arrest, planning to see in the New Year with Françoise Sagan, the novelist and her village neighbour.

## Sour note on fishing in EEC share-out

From Richard Owen  
Brussels

After a political re-vision of the spoils of EEC membership - inevitably dubbed the "night of the long knives" at the Berlaymont EEC headquarters - a new Commission was unveiled yesterday giving Spain and Portugal control of social affairs, financial instruments and fisheries.

The allocation of the fishing portfolio to Portugal caused immediate disension between the two new members, with some Spanish officials complaining that Madrid and Lisbon have in the past come to blows over fishing rights. But this sour note was lost in the general air of harmony and optimism over enlargement, coupled with relief that fishing had not gone to Spain, which has the most powerful fishing fleet in the Community.

## Hostages in jail rising freed

New York - The prison rebellion in West Virginia, in which three prisoners were stabbed to death, ended yesterday with the release of the remaining seven hostages and talks on the inmates' grievances (Trevor Fishlock writes).

The deal between the prisoners' leaders and the authorities ended the 42-hour rebellion in which about 300 men seized the prison and took 16 prison staff as hostages.

The officials promised no reprisals but insisted on taking action against those responsible for the killings.

## Mission five die in ambush

Harare (AP) - Unita rebels ambushed and killed five Angolans from the Caluquembe mission hospital staffed by Canadians in the south-west Huila province on New Year's Eve, a Canadian diplomat, Mr James Fox, reported.

Two Brazilian nursing sisters with the party were believed to have been abducted.

## 18 die in Peru guerrilla attack

Lima (AP) - Sixteen peasants and two rebels were killed when Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) guerrillas attacked the village of Agua Blanca, in Huánuco department, on New Year's Day, according to a military communiqué.

The guerrillas were killed by members of a civil defence patrol formed by villagers under military guidance.

## Workers held in Fossey inquiry

Kigali, Rwanda (Reuters) - Police have detained several dozen workers from a remote research station formerly run by the American gorilla expert, Dian Fossey, aged 53, who was murdered last month, a US Embassy official said.

Friends in Nairobi speculated that Ms Fossey might have been killed by poachers, but the embassy official said police had not confirmed this.

## Poachers shot

Harare (AP) - Zimbabwean game rangers this week shot dead four poachers in the Zambesi valley where black rhinos are threatened with extinction. The poachers, armed with high velocity rifles, fired back before being killed.

## Dhaka protest

Dhaka (Reuters) - About 25,000 striking Government doctors, engineers and agriculturalists marched through Bangladesh capital in protest at the arrest of seven colleagues.

## Australians drink most in English-speaking world

Sydney (AFP) - Australians are the most frequent drinkers of alcohol in the English-speaking world, according to a survey to be published in *The Medical Journal of Australia*, which also expressed concern over drinking by children.

It said Australia ranked 12th in the world overall for per capita alcohol consumption, and that there had been a significant increase in drinking by women in recent years.

A cause of concern was excessive drinking by children. Four per cent of children under

## The new Commission

Jacques Delors, President (France); Lorenzo Natali, co-operation and development (Italy); Frans Andriessen, agriculture, forestry (The Netherlands); Lord Cockfield, internal market, customs union, taxation (Britain); Henning Christophersen, budget, personnel and administration (Denmark); Manuel Marín, social affairs, employment, education and training (Spain); Carlos Ripa di Meana, institutional affairs, citizens Europe, culture, tourism and information (Italy); Peter Sutherland, competition, relations with the European Parliament (Irish Republic); Antonio Cardoso Cunha, fisheries (Portugal); Abel Matutes, credit, investment, financial instruments, small and medium-sized businesses (Spain); Karl-Heinz Naumann, industrial affairs, information technology, research and science (West Germany).

## Two Arabs charged in Belgium

From Richard Owen  
Brussels

Two suspected Arab terrorists who were arrested in Belgium on Monday were yesterday charged with forming a "criminal association" with the intention of attacking persons and property and remained in custody for a month.

But it is still not clear whether the two men, who arrived in Brussels the day after the airport massacres at Rome and Vienna, were connected with these attacks.

Investigation into the two Arabs and an alleged Belgian accomplice is taking place amid strict secrecy and security. Neither nor their nationality has yet been released. The court hearing yesterday at Hasselt, not far from Brussels, was held in closed session. There were reports that the two suspects had been named in court.

They were observed by police at Brussels airport when they arrived from Athens last Saturday, and were followed to the home in Hasselt of a Belgian arms dealer named Danny Engels, at first identified by police only by his initials.

Police uncovered a large arms cache as well as explosives at Mr Engels' home and at his video shop in Hasselt. He has previous convictions for illegal possession of arms, and was also remanded at yesterday's hearing. The explosives included 24lbs of TNT of East European origin.

There are reports that Signor Domenico Sica, the examining magistrate in Rome, would travel to Brussels shortly to investigate possible links between the two Arabs and the attack at Rome airport, but the Belgian authorities could not confirm this.

Security at Brussels airport has been tightened since the attacks and there is speculation that Brussels was on a second hit list with Paris and Madrid.



A farewell embrace for President Gemayel of Lebanon (right) from President Assad of Syria in Damascus yesterday, after a round of inconclusive talks.

## Readers take sides over divorce story

From Mary Lee  
Peking

A real-life family drama, centring on the issue of divorce, which unfolded in print in early December has drawn many letters in support of ending loveless marriages. The case involves a 50-year-old man, Mr Yang An, (a pseudonym) and his 39-year-old wife, Ms Zhou Jing (also a pseudonym).

Mr Yang sued for divorce in 1983 after a 13-year marriage which they had entered into during the Cultural Revolution believing that they were "a good match politically". The *China Legal News* which first ran the story commented: "At that time, political background was the main consideration, even in marriage."

Today, according to the *Canton Daily*, the typical young woman looking for a husband insists on the "three highs" - a higher salary than hers, a high educational level and that he be more than 5ft 6in tall.

Ms Zhou raised strong objections to the divorce, which was granted a year later. The court's decision sent the wife into "hysterical paralysis". She threatened suicide but later agreed to the divorce on the condition that Mr Yang paid her 30,000 yuan (about £7,000).

Mr Yang was unable to raise that amount of money, and the court "had to withhold its verdict" which in turn sent the husband into despair. He also threatened to commit suicide.

The case has so far drawn more than 400 letters of comments from readers, *China Legal News* said. Many who supported the husband said Ms Zhou's demands were unjustifiable and that the court should not yield to her suicide threat. Sympathy for Mr Yang is also based on the fact that, not long after the marriage, Ms Zhou suffered a gynaecological disorder which ended their sex life and shattered their hopes of having a child.

Mr Zhang Yanyu, president of the Law Society, also wrote to the paper saying: "Divorce is not a bad thing for society and a couple who have lost their affection for each other and cannot tolerate living together."

Letters in support of the woman condemned Mr Yang for trying to divorce a sick wife who had no relatives to whom she could turn.

*China Legal News* said it published the case in detail to solicit readers' opinions on the legal and ethical issues involved.

A Peking district court official was quoted as saying that some people refused to divorce "simply because they want to take revenge on their marital partners". Others said that such refusals were due to difficulties of remarriage and consideration for the children. (The couple adopted a child in 1981).

Since 1981, when the marriage law was revised and allowed for "complete alienation of mutual affection" as grounds

## Sri Lanka checks tea exports for poison

Colombo (Reuters) - Sri Lanka is checking all tea exports after the British and US embassies received warnings that arsenic had been put in consignments.

The Sri Lanka Government and Sri Lanka Tea Board strongly denied that Tamil guerrillas had mixed arsenic powder in a consignment of tea for export but confirmed that "precautions" were being taken.

"There is nothing new in this type of threat. There have been similar ones earlier and necessary precautions were taken then. Similar precautions are being taken now," a Tea Board spokesman said.

A senior official for a leading

firm which exports tea mainly to the US said the British and US embassies had received letters warning that tea consignments meant for export had been poisoned.

"We took serious notice of these threats and halted shipments and are checking on all consignments," said the official, who did not want to be named.

He said the firm would resume tea exports after it was satisfied the tea had not been poisoned. The firm believed the threat was a hoax but it was taking all precautions. Tea is Sri Lanka's main foreign exchange earner.

In Calcutta, centre for the tea trade in India, the world's largest producer and exporter, a

leading newspaper said guerrillas fighting for a separate Tamil state had poisoned tea exports to harm the Sri Lankan economy.

The *Calcutta Telegraph* said that according to rumours in the tea trade, arsenic powder was mixed with a large tea consignment for export to the US.

British Department of Health said yesterday: "We are aware of threats to contaminate tea with arsenic or potassium cyanide, but there is no evidence to suggest that anything like this has happened. It is certainly still safe to drink tea imported from Sri Lanka and we shall be keeping close watch to ensure that it remains so."



## Police ban remembrance for rights activist in South African township

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

South African police have banned a memorial service for Mrs Molly Blackman, the civil rights activist, due to be held today in the black township of Port Elizabeth.

Brigadier Ernest Schaefer, divisional commissioner of police, said he stopped the memorial under emergency regulations because he believed it could endanger public safety. Port Elizabeth has been one of the main flashpoints of township unrest.

Mrs Blackman was killed in a car crash last Saturday and 20,000 blacks from all over the Eastern Cape gathered for her funeral in Port Elizabeth on Thursday.

Mrs Di Bishop, another leading civil rights activist who was badly injured in the crash, said yesterday: "The only reason I can think of for the ban is that they find this kind of occasion a threat to the survival of apartheid". Mrs Helen Suzman, the veteran Progressive Federal

Party MP, described the ban as a "confounded shame".

She said: "It demonstrates the Government's inability to tolerate what would be an enormous outpouring of regard for her sterling work among blacks".

Meanwhile Dr Wendy Orr, the young white South African doctor, who took the police to court over their assault on blacks held under the state of emergency, has resigned from her post with the Cape Provincial Health Authority after receiving death threats over the telephone.

She said yesterday: "I have been very unhappy for some time and the death threats have just added to my misery".

Late last year Dr Orr and 43 other applicants obtained an injunction from the Port Elizabeth Supreme Court ordering the police to refrain from systematically assaulting detainees.

At the time she was employed as a district surgeon by the health authority, she was given new duties treating elderly patients under Cape provincial care, which meant she would no longer be in contact with detainees held under the state of emergency.

Dr Orr, who plans to start a US tour in April at the invitation of the US Information Service, said she had applied for an interim post with a clinic in the Alexandra black township outside Johannesburg.

She said the threats to her life had been reported to the police and she had changed her address and taken an unlisted telephone number.

Police yesterday reported four more deaths in continued black township violence - bringing the toll for the first three days of the year to at least 20. All four were killed in black-on-black attacks, according to police.

## Fear of the unknown

### US gripped by Aids hysteria

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

Health authorities in Boston are being badgered by a doctor who wants Aids victims sent to an island off the Massachusetts coast that was once a leper colony.

Fear of Aids is as much a phenomenon as Aids itself. Although no one knows whether the virus is spread through saliva, an Aids carrier in Michigan has been charged with trying to murder four policemen by spitting at them.

Numerous voices in America are being raised in an effort to calm anxiety and hysteria. But in many minds Aids has taken on the terrifying characteristics of a plague.

Some churches have stopped using the common communion cup. People have become nervous about eating in restaurants with homosexual staff. A couple visiting New Orleans reported being so frightened of eating out that they lived off tinned food in their hotel room.

In cities like New York and San Francisco, with high levels of Aids, an insurance company insists on blood tests.

Many health specialists are convinced that casual contact does not spread Aids and say there is no evidence that it is spread by shared glasses or

sneezes, or by touching an Aids victim. But they cannot be categorical in their assurances.

Experts say people stand a greater chance of being struck by lightning than by Aids. But many people do not trust experts, and there is a strong feeling of "better safe than sorry".

So there is heavy pressure on local authorities to "do something". New York has reacted by closing two notorious homosexual houses on the grounds that they were places of "high risk" sexual activity. New York has a third of all the Aids cases in the US.

Many health specialists believe that closing these places does nothing to attack the disease. Authorities like New York are accused of appeasing a panicky public rather than tackling the problem through education. Mr Edward Koch, the mayor, called sex house owners "merchants of death".

Aids is spread primarily through sodomy, the sharing of infected needles among drug addicts and infected blood. Nearly three-quarters of American victims are homosexual or bisexual.

The number of drug addicts catching the disease is increasing sharply. A third of the new

cases this year are addicts. Many frequent the "shooting galleries" in this city where a dirty needle can be rented.

Many authorities are enacting or proposing laws in response to concern about Aids. There are proposals that health and food workers should be certificated as being free of Aids. In several parts of the country children with Aids are banned from school.

Service men are being screened for the disease. Those who have used drugs or engaged in homosexual practices are being discharged.

Since the death from Aids of Rock Hudson, the actor, there has been a large increase in calls to Aids information centres. The Screen Actors Guild has declared open-mouth kissing dangerous and says actors can refuse to do it.

All 50 US states now have Aids cases. More than 15,000 have been diagnosed and half the victims have died. The number of cases is doubling each year and it is estimated that between 700,000 and 1.4 million Americans carry the virus.

No one can say how many of these will develop the disease. That is part of the uncertainty that causes the fear.

## 3 Heysel officers replaced

From Richard Owen, Brussels

Three of the senior Belgian Gendarmier officers in charge of security during the Heysel football stadium riots last year have been removed from active duty and given administrative posts.

A spokesman for the Gendarmier said yesterday that the removals did not amount to disciplinary action and were part of a routine rotation of police officers in the course of annual promotions and demotions.

But most Belgian commentators saw the move as reflective of widespread criticism of security at the stadium and failure of the police to prevent or contain the violence.

The Chief of Police, General Bernaert, is not blamed and was largely exonerated by the Government inquiry set up after the Heysel disaster. Instead, lower level officials have been singled out for criticism.

The three officers, removed from duty were named as Colonel Alfons van der Borcht, police commander in the Saboteur region, Major Kessier and Captain Mahieu. The three had 100 gendarmes under their command inside the stadium.

In a further follow-up to the tragedy, which occurred on May 29 but is still causing repercussions, high-level liaison has been strengthened between the Gendarmier and the Ministries of the Interior and Justice.

## Marcos rivals make neutral zone pledge

Manila (Reuters, AP) - Philippines opposition leaders are vowing to make South-East Asia a zone of neutrality, freedom and peace if they win the presidential election on February 7.

Outlining its "minimum programme", the opposition group said yesterday that it would repudiate all agreements made by the administration of President Ferdinand Marcos seen to be against the national interests.

Analysts say the granting of a pardon to the opposition leader Mrs Sirmavong Bandaranaike on Wednesday was the first indication. Her civic rights were taken away in 1980 after she was found guilty of abuse of power during her term of office as Prime Minister from 1970 to 1977.

Press reports said yesterday that the pardon came as an indication that President Jayewardene is planning a snap election around April.

It was amalgamation of the northern and eastern provinces and for them to be given autonomy. The Government refuses to consider this saying that Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims live in almost equal numbers in the eastern province.

An election will not affect the position of President Jayewardene, who was re-elected in 1982 to serve till 1990.

But he has now succeeded in convincing most people that his motives are sincere and worthy of support. He has scored a particular hit with the young, who recently voted him their personality of the year.

The *Restaurants du Coeur*, which are mostly not restaurants at all but distribution centres where people can take away a prepared meal in a bag, are due to come to an end on March 21.

But Coluche hopes by that time to have engendered a new spirit of generosity in the heart of ordinary French people, which will continue to be expressed through the more traditional, existing charities.

When Coluche first announced his scheme three months ago many people had difficulty in believing that the blasphemer had really turned

manufacturer, and the use of a computer to help co-ordinate the operation from a computer company.

For Coluche's humour, which shows a marked penchant for the scatological and the blasphemous, is not to everyone's taste. Sentencing him recently for shouting obscenities at a policeman, the presiding judge described Coluche as a hothead. But it is probably his controversial character, as much as his ready access to the media, which has attracted attention to the *Restaurants du Coeur* and made the venture such a success.

The idea first came to Coluche last autumn when, after helping organise a charity concert in aid of the Ethiopian

## Colombo hints at snap poll

From Vijitha Yapa, Colombo

There is growing speculation in Sri Lanka that President Jayewardene is planning a snap election around April.

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manufacturer, and the use of a computer to help co-ordinate the operation from a computer company.



Bedouin smugglers being paraded by police at Bilbeis, Egypt, yesterday in front of a cache of hashish slabs and a Russian AK47 rifle. The men were arrested with the haul in the desert east of Cairo.

## Cocaine leads rise in world drugs abuse

Vienna (AFP) - Worldwide abuse of drugs, especially cocaine, rose last year despite stiff anti-drug measures in many countries, the International Narcotics Control Board said in its annual report released yesterday.

The board, a UN body, said co-ordinated action was imperative for progress to be made. But the report noted that police had scored some successes, with stiffer penalties for traffickers, destruction of drug-related crops and tighter control of chemicals used to process the raw materials into finished products.

In Europe, most narcotics came from abroad, although there was an attempt to grow illicit opium poppies in Italy and Spain which was speedily ended by the authorities, the report said.

It is estimated that approximately 30 per cent of the opiates available in the region originate in the Near and Middle East and South Asia, while 20 per cent originate in South-east Asia.

The report said large quantities of heroin were seized in 1985, but there were signs that it was less available than in 1984. A record haul of 133lb destined for the United States was seized in October 1985 by Austrian police. Most of the traffickers were Iranians.

The countries which reported to Interpol the largest seizures were, in descending order: Britain, France, The Netherlands, West Germany and Italy.

The study also reported increased use of cocaine, originating from South America. "Availability of and trafficking in cocaine have increased sharply in recent years, indicating the determined efforts of traffickers to expand the illicit market in Western Europe. In 1984, for the second consecutive year, more than one tonne of cocaine was seized. Seizures reported to Interpol during the first half of 1985 amounted to almost half a tonne".

The countries reporting the largest total seizures were: Spain, West Germany, Britain, France, Switzerland and The Netherlands.

In the United States, the abuse of drugs, often in combination, "remains a serious health problem". Quoting 1984 figures it said cannabis was the most widely used drug, although consumption dropped by an estimated 3 per cent, mainly because of less use by young people. Cocaine abuse was estimated to have increased by 11 per cent although the US authorities expected the number of abusers to stabilize. Heroin consumption fell slightly in 1984 but deaths from heroin and morphine increased by 31 per cent.

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It is estimated that approximately 30 per cent of the opiates available in the region originate in the Near and Middle East and South Asia, while 20 per cent originate in South-east Asia.

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## Atlantic rescue for record bid crew

Corunna (Reuters) - Five surviving crew of a giant French catamaran which foundered off the Spanish coast during a transatlantic record bid were airlifted to a hospital in this northwestern Spanish city.

Coastguard officials said a sixth crew member, Jean Castennet, went missing when the yacht Jet Services, named after the sponsor company, capsized in a gale three days ago and was presumed dead.

Doctors at the hospital in Corunna said one of the crew, Mark Grillemat, was seriously injured. But the skipper, Patrick record-holder Patrick Morvan, and three other crew members were in good health.

## Karajan check

Vienna (AFP) - Herbert von Karajan, the conductor, has cancelled two concerts here on January 11 and 12 to travel to the United States for a medical check-up. The Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra announced. He is 77.

## Convict spree

Oslo - (Reuters) - Two convicts with credit cards have run up bills totalling three million kroner (£275,000) on a round-the-world spending spree since escaping from a Norwegian jail three months ago.

## Women police

Delhi (Reuters) - The Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, said he was setting up a special women-only police battalion to give women better representation in India's security forces.

## Hashish haul

Delhi (Reuters) - Three tonnes of hashish worth £1 million were seized in India's biggest narcotics haul when customs officials raided a cargo container bound for West Germany.



**WIGMORE HALL**

also pages 22 & 30

## THE ARTS


## box corner

Gas Macdonald, who is undoubtedly the best "modernist" on television, explained that the average "viewer" spends some four hours of each day watching television: the "modernist" represents so pervasive an influence that to criticize is perhaps to remain sane. This is not just the sphere of the musician or the polemicist (although they have proper function also) but, as last night's programme suggested, that of the person who feels threatened or diminished by what appears on the small screen in their home.

Interestingly, it seems that sex and swearing no longer provoke the outrage of even the recent past; the major complaint now, justifiably, has to do with violence and its increasing hold upon the makers of programmes.

P.A.

## A feast for Rossini fans



**Paul Brook as Rossini**

Chapelle Royale where "*Cujus animam*" from the *Stabat Mater* reverberates imposingly. Back in the opera house the principals are joked by other soloists and the Radio France Chorus for some entertaining (if

## The viewers' soapbox corner

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## Gallery

## Handel in words and pictures

## Hallelujah! Handel

### National Portrait Gallery

A liking for Handel's music would seem to be of a national character, for the National Portrait Gallery, curators of the exhibition *Hallelujah! Handel - Celebration of his Life at the Times 1685-1759*, if not because you hear either a lot of it as you walk round the 2nd floor, but in fact the exhibition is admirably garnered by Jacob Simon and running until Handel's 301st birthday (February 23rd), fascinate a very large and interested Georgian London. Handel, for instance, happened to be a voter in the 17th Westminster by-election, a viciously-fought campaign even by modern standards, and the poll-book with his name at the vote cast (he was a Whig) shows here. It is sobering to realise that the book would have been equally available to inspection by anyone who wished to know how his tenant had voted.

[illegible]

After Goussy "The Charming Brute." an anonymous engraving

was heard (in the wrong place) for the first time then, and Solomon's chaplain has not yet made a British coronation since.

Naturally the portraits of Handel dominate all else. It is indicative of the exalted circle in which he moved that he was portrayed more often (than by better artists than) other eighteenth-century composers. This exhibition brings together for the first time, the two massive Thomas Hudson portraits: one showing the composer in the prime of his life, confident in late middle age; the other a far sadder image of the blind Handel a few years later.

Mercier's delightfully informal view of the younger Handel has a lot to tell in his red wig and gown is included, as is Goupy's gross and cruel caricature of Handel as the "Harmomious Boar". It was said to have been drawn in a fit of pique after the artist's invitation to a very frugal supper with Handel, had subsequently observed the composer gorging himself in private.

For musicians, however, the portraits may be of less interest than the mass of autograph letters and manuscripts.

If ever a page of manuscript evoked a particular spectacle, it is the opening of the *Royal Fireworks Music* autograph, where the composer proudly lists (and in his own hand scribbles) the 1000 musketeers of the *Musical Regiment of the Wallabies* for the grand disposal on that famous April evening in 1749: 24 oboes, 12 bassoons, nine trumpets and the rest.

**Richard Morrison**

# Radio

# Polished passions of youth

IF I had to nominate one production not only as the past year's best but also as the best of 1985 but as first-footing 1986 in brilliant style, I think it would have to be Peter Everett's series *You'll Never Be 16 Again*. The last of its seven parts was heard on New Year's Day (Radio 4) and set a standard which it would be nice to think would provide a norm for the remainder of the year in this respect: would some achievement for 1985 was already a vintage year for this kind of montage documentary, the greater number of which, as I remarked back in November, hailed from Mr Everett and his colleagues in Manchester.

In fact I can think of very few from any other centre that have done as well. The same case there was John Theocaris's *All Night Long* in which a young black Nottingham carpenter took us with colourful relief through the ritual of his Saturday night at the disco; there was Piers Plowright's memento mori, *Sitting Still*, but after those two came the productions which were made to compare with Theocaris's *Actuality* and since then with the superlative series *Actuality*.

*Actuality* was a string of programmes on different topics. *You'll Never Be 16 Again* was in the last programme, a treatment of a single theme, divided into seven chapters. Its immense scope, covering a period of some 30 years, has allowed us to see all kinds of patterns and trends, emerging

# Polished passions of youth

## Concert

**Kreisler String  
Orchestra/Thomas  
Wigmore Hall**

Despite its rather unencouraging name, the Kreitzer String Orchestra, which is the resident ensemble at South Hill Park Arts Centre, Bracknell, is an auspiciously capable young group. And I really had no objection to their inclusion in an arrangement by their conductor, Michael Thomas, of Brahms's Op 111 String Quintet. Indeed, its formidable technical challenges were met with aplomb, though there were a few musical advantages to be gained from the exercise, since this is strictly soloistic music and the toughness which the forces tended to remove from it is an essential part of its message.

But what I did object to and almost strongly, was the way it

which the programme note writer, a member of the orchestra whose name shall remain unrevealed, loftily attempted to justify this enterprise.

According to him it is "a false sense of purity which insists on adding to that struggle (inherent in the music) and even obscuring the music's clarity of purpose by insisting on a solo quintet". Are we then to assume that when Brahms specified a string quintet on his title page, he really would have preferred something else? How very remiss of him.

Enough chiding, though, for the central work in this concert was so very good, even though we had first set through a performance, albeit a fine, well-rounded one, of Grieg's ubiquitous *Holberg Suite*. The work concerned was Britten's youthful Rimbaud cycle, *Les Illuminations*, in which the soloist was

Jennifer Smith. Hers may be a smallish voice, but here it was beautifully balanced with the strings.

Among many highlights were the passion and technical control that went side by side in "Villes" and the elegantly implicit sexiness of "Antique". Miss Smith coloured Britten's highly sensitized lines thoroughly with a compelling subtlety and the strings were very much on top of this none-too-easy score.

**Stephen Pettitt**


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**LENN** 

...and  
Sundays too

**ASTORIA THEATRE**

## Stephen Pettitt

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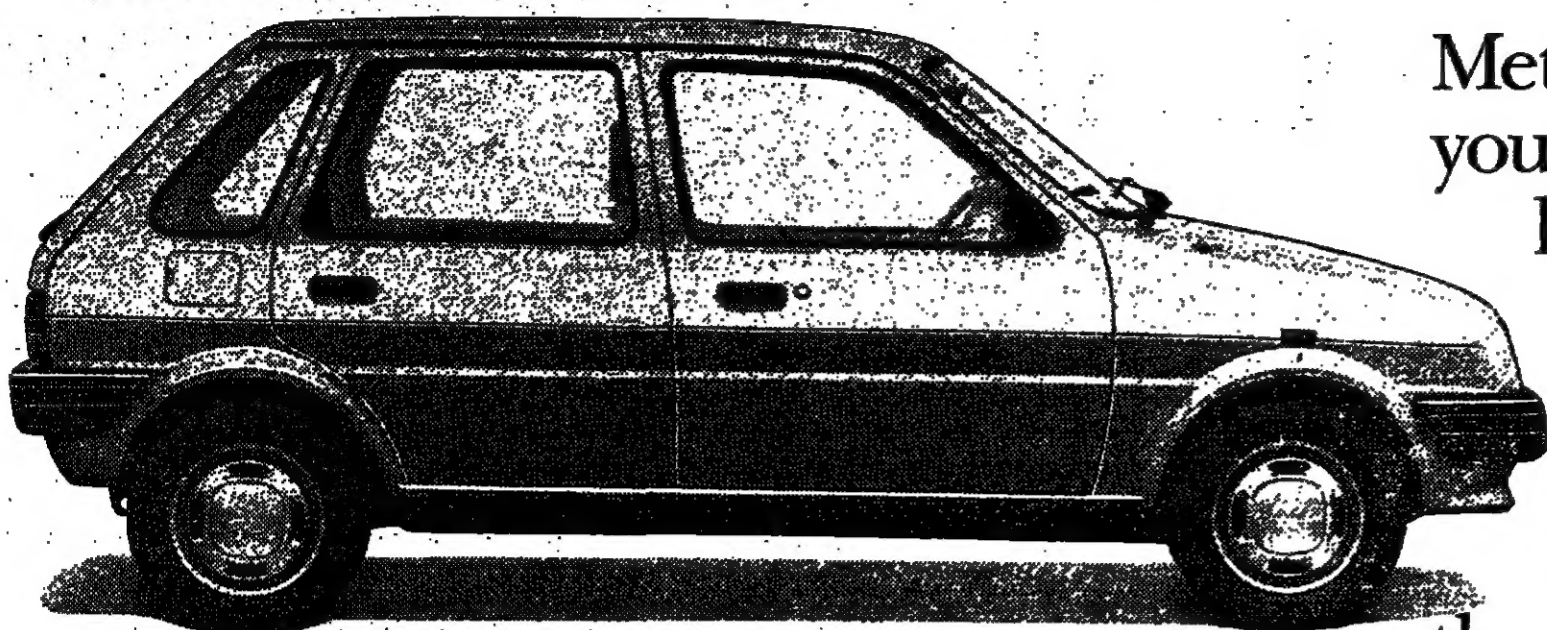
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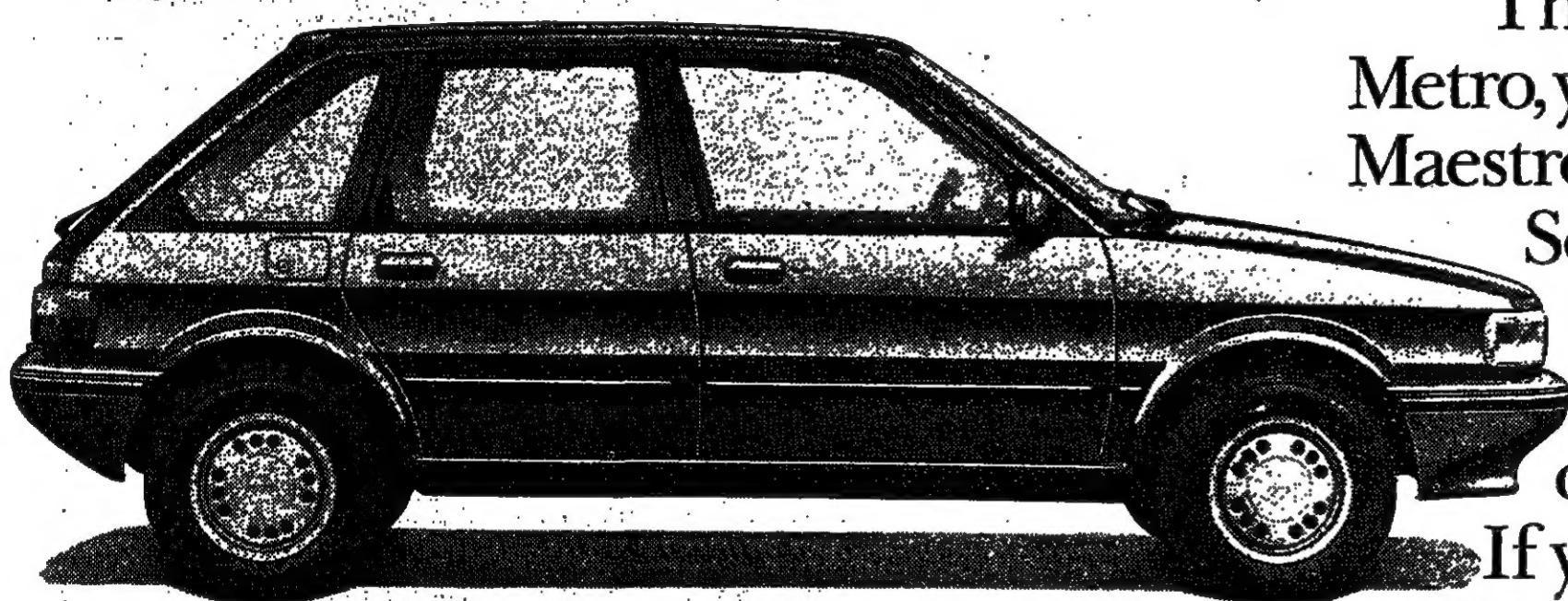
A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a person's face, heavily shadowed and grainy, appearing to be part of a newspaper clipping. The image is oriented vertically, with the person's head tilted back. The lighting is dramatic, with the right side of the face (viewer's left) in deep shadow and the left side (viewer's right) catching some light, highlighting the cheekbone and jawline. The texture is very rough and noisy, typical of old newspaper prints. The image is framed by a thick black border.



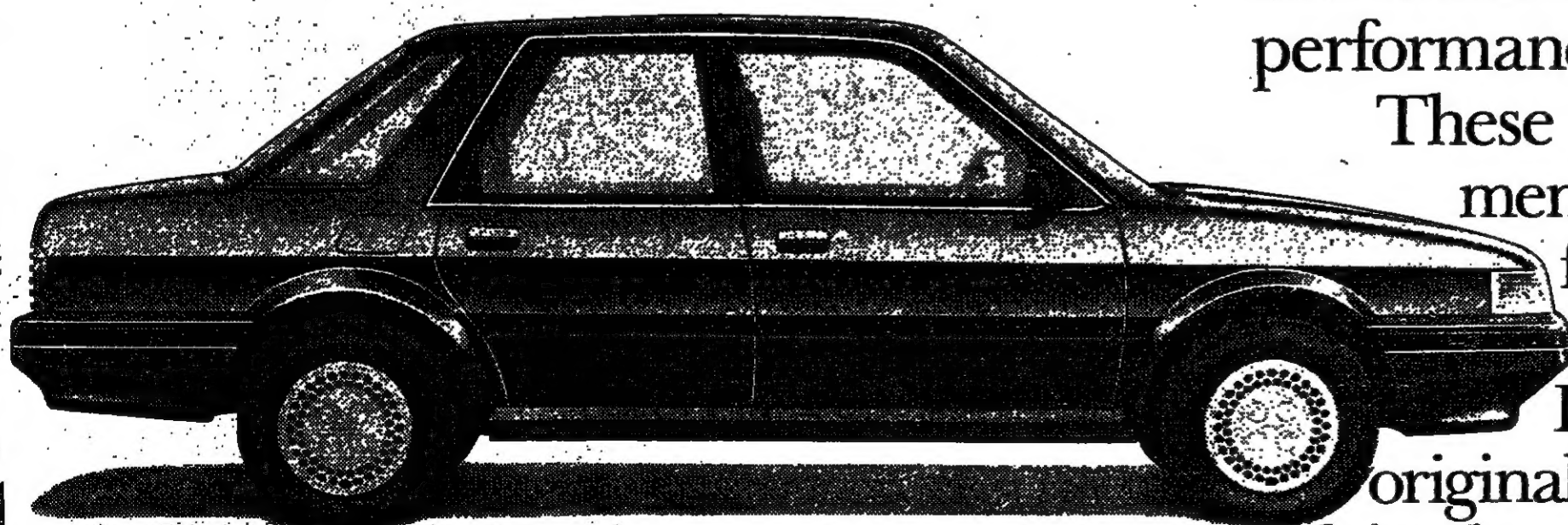
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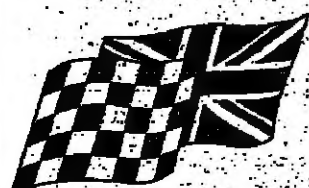
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Some MPs are predicting that this year will see New Zealand reducing the number of diplomatic posts in European capitals and increasing those in North Africa and the Middle East, where there are prospects for meat and wool exports. There may also be a "symbolic" post in Stockholm, in recognition of Indian sympathy for the more Pacific nation.





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## BALLOTS FOLLOW BULLETS

Politicians and statesmen are fond of New Year messages. Whatever their tendencies towards seasonal piety, they are confined to words alone. Irish terrorists saw in 1986 by murdering a pair of policemen. It was a New Year message to remind us of some underlying realities in Northern Ireland, which have been partially obscured by recent political excitement.

It was delivered alongside two statistics which emerged this week. The Royal Ulster Constabulary has just suffered its worst year of casualties since 1976. With the despatch of 550 additional troops, the Army's strength in the province is at its highest level for more than 10 years. All in all, a grim aftermath to the cheerful tableau of British and Irish ministers assembled to sign the Hillsborough agreement in November.

Elected government in Northern Ireland is under systematic assault by armed military conspiracy. Agreements, such as the one signed at Hillsborough, which redefine relations between democratic states may, eventually, affect the battle against terrorism by altering the context in which it is fought. But agreements can do very little for the everyday business of preventing the murder of soldiers and policemen. The ministers of the British and Irish governments who are set to defend their agreement in the run-up to parliamentary by-elections later this month would do well to frame their defence in that knowledge, lest anyone be deceived into thinking that the IRA has been somehow forgotten.

The IRA, explicitly committed to a long campaign to wear down the British electorate's commitment to Northern Ireland, need only enough killing to ensure that no-one does forget them. That basic purpose is common to every atrocity, although their choice of targets may vary over time. Lately, they have been aiming most frequently at the RUC, perhaps in the hope of lowering morale to the point where policemen might exceed their powers, or could in some way be cast in the role of a "sectarian" (that is to say, pro-Unionist and anti-Nationalist) force. They have not found it easy to provoke this, and their frustration may be seen in their threats against a softer target, the contractors faced with a heavy rebuilding programme in several police stations.

By stepping up murder, the IRA are also setting up a test for the Hillsborough agreement. More crime means more investigation. There is always the possibility that nationalist politicians will claim that police action is increasing the "alienation" of the Catholic community - and they are likely to add, recruit more voters for Provisional Sinn Féin. But the Hillsborough agreement can only work if Dublin's ministers at the inter-governmental conference can combine their role as representatives of the north's minority Catholic population with support for properly conducted security operations. They are entitled, and encouraged, by the agreement to urge northern

Catholics to take part in monitoring the quality of police work and the past has shown that this is necessary.

But everyday policing cannot become a matter for continuous political control and interference. Nor will the Hillsborough agreement amount to security much if disagreements between politicians and diplomats about security are little more than coded exchanges about partition and history, with the purposes and details of security operations absorbed in a larger quarrel. If the agreement has any success in building support inside the minority community for legitimate authority, it can only do so if nationalist politicians can lay aside the sectarian, symbolic view of policing, and treat the issues which arise on their merits. It goes without saying that this structure applies in exactly the same measure to the police, whose impartiality may well meet stiffer tests if and when opposition to the agreement turns to civil disobedience.

Parliamentaries of the north clearly intend to show that they continue to wield a power of veto over political progress; and indeed political activity of any kind. There are now hunger-strikers in the Maze for the first time in five years, who are capable of mounting a drama which will come to overshadow all else. A Government's only defence against this sort of attack is a steady determination, forged by the knowledge that it will have to be maintained at high cost for a long time.

## BANGLADESH BOWLS A WIDE

The Foreign Office's expression of "regret" over the Bangladesh government's last-minute refusal to allow four English cricketers into its country must reflect Whitehall's instinctive preference for damage limitation. It is therefore up to others, less professionally constrained, to ensure that Dacca is left in no doubt over the true nature of British reaction.

The Bangladesh government's excuse is that its own cricket control board did not produce confirmation until the eleventh hour of the four players' links with South Africa. But this is not even an adequate explanation for what can only be seen as a grave discourtesy to this country.

It is true that each government has the right to decide who should or should not be admitted past its shores. But the England "B" cricket party were travelling as the quasi-official representatives of a friendly nation. The very least that might have been expected of their hosts was that any such difficulties would have been sorted out in good time, and that it should have absorbed itself the consequences of its own failure to do so.

Whenever they ought to have been lodged, were the objections unreasonable? They were made after all on the basis of the Commonwealth's 1977 Glen-

eagles Agreement, which committed member states to take every practical step to "discourage" its nationals from contact or competition with sporting organizations, teams or sportsmen from South Africa. The methods by which this commitment should be discharged were left to the governments themselves.

The method adopted by successive British governments since has been one of gentle persuasion on the administrative body of the sport concerned. It has then been up to that particular organization to take what action it considers appropriate. That may not sound like the strong stance favoured by some other Commonwealth countries. But few, if any sporting bodies can be in much doubt over Whitehall's displeasure.

No MCC touring team has been to South Africa (and no South African team has been here) since the middle 1960s. The 1968-9 tour of the Cape was actually cancelled by England. The so-called "rebel" England cricketers who went to South Africa in the early 1980s were banned for three years from the national side, and only re-joined it last summer. This last action might not have been as punitive as that taken by the West Indies, which banned its own "rebels" for life. But it was hardly a case

of turning a blind eye, and was widely criticized at the time for being too harsh.

The players to whom Bangladesh has now objected have been penalized for coaching in South Africa as individuals. They were picked for England under a ruling by the International Cricket Conference of 1981 that each country should be free to pick its own best side. This particular quartet must have been (or at least should have been) considered by the selectors to be vulnerable. But the choice in the end deserved to be respected by the Bangladesh authorities.

Perhaps the Dacca government is smarting over the refusal of Britain to operate full-blooded economic sanctions against Pretoria. If so then it has been ill-advised to take umbrage in this way. With its own previous record on democratic rights it can hardly expect its decision to be treated in this country with respect.

We must now hope that Zimbabwe does not follow this example, and still more so, that the fever does not extend to the forthcoming tour by the England First XI in the Caribbean. There is a point beyond which sanctions can only be counterproductive. They then risk bringing apartheid into sport not taking it away.

## NIGERIAN UNREALITY

It has been evident for some time that in negotiations between bankers, international organizations and insolvent countries, the initiative can readily pass to debtor countries that are in a position to seize it. Banks are more reluctant than ever to call a default, because of the domino effect on their own balance sheets. And multinational companies are anxious to retain and develop important if temporarily depressed markets.

Pressures at home, however, provide the greatest stimulus for all but the most stable debtor governments to call the bluff of the International Monetary Fund and question the assumption that an economic restructuring agreement with the IMF is a vital pre-requisite for rescheduling bank debts.

The new regime in Nigeria has revealed a subtle strategy to do just that. Following the breakdown of talks with the IMF over Nigeria's reluctance to devalue a currency that trades at a fifth of its nominal exchange rate in the black market, it has announced measures at home and conditions for rescheduling that offer both the banks and the IMF enough of what they want to make them think twice. Creditors abroad are privately re-

assured about Nigeria's good faith and good intentions.

In particular, the Budget included drastic cuts in the subsidies that Nigeria, a leading oil producer, has given to restrain domestic prices of motor fuel. There are also moves to restructure the economy to encourage currently negligible non-oil exports of products such as food.

On the other side, Major-General Babangida's government has followed Peru's example and imposed unilaterally a limit on the proportion of the country's foreign exchange earnings that will be used to service up to 20 billion dollars of foreign debt. It proposes to open rescheduling talks on that basis, although the finance minister later suggested that the 30 per cent limit was a negotiating position. The bankers may have some sympathy with this stance, in that the limit will enable Nigeria to service a good part of its longer-term debt, however anxious traders and insurers may be about their already delayed trade debts. Any deterioration in oil trading would in any case have limited Nigeria's ability to pay.

The future of Nigeria's currency, the naira, is, however, crucial both to its developing

financial position and to the restructuring of its economy. The prospect of drastic devaluation was unpopular at home. No wonder. For devaluation represents a drop in living standards unless that is delayed by inflation. Yet the changes in the oil market have cut the value of Nigeria's output whether the people like it or not.

Attempts to disguise this are likely to undermine not only the government's efforts to restructure the economy but also to crack down on the endemic corruption that clogs its wheels. The government has in mind some kind of compromise involving a two-tier currency market that will partly legitimize the black market and perhaps pave the way to modest devaluation. Yet this sets up more of the administrative controls that breed corruption. A new kind of import license is to be available, but only to some and still rigidly controlled. And to counteract the currency misalignment, a 30 per cent import levy is to be imposed to finance export incentives, both openings for further malpractice. While it builds further such structures to disguise market realities, the Nigerian government will have little hope of cleaning up the country's business practices.

ing to the Bloomsbury Health Authority's information, should "attend" (sic) the accident and emergency department at University College Hospital which, according to Dr Souhami, is having the greatest difficulty in meeting its existing commitments.

Oxford Street is one of the busiest traffic streets in London. At peak it is served by over 260 buses and 600 taxis an hour. It is also the busiest

shopping street in Europe. The inevitable, if unfortunate, consequence is some two hundred traffic accidents annually involving personal injury for which the Bloomsbury Health Authority seems ill prepared.

Yours faithfully,  
HARRY SHEPHERD, Director,  
The Oxford Street Association,  
Eastgate House,  
16-19 Eastgate Street, W1.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Takeovers not in public interest

From Lord Hacking

Sir, It would have been unthinkable a few years ago for a company with the assets of tenth the value of another company to find sufficient finance to launch a takeover bid. However this is exactly what we are witnessing in the Argyl bid for Distillers. Nor is this the first such major bid to reach the shores. There is also Elders, DXL which is attempting its own David and Goliath act against Allied Lyons.

While this form of hostile takeover bid, certainly of the proportions of the Elders and Argyl bids, may be new to us, they have been in the United States for a little time. For example, the GAF Corporation, reportedly one-tenth of the size of its target company, is currently locked in battle with Union Carbide on a bid valued at US \$4.8 billion with the support of financing valued at US \$3.75 billion. Some of these bids have succeeded and some not, but at least one US major corporation, during the last four months, has been pulled apart in such a takeover without regard to the industry in which it operated or the public interest at large.

No expertise in takeovers is required to appreciate that the offer in these so-called "leveraged" bids has to obtain huge loans for financing and sustaining the bid. Argyl has already had to seek net borrowings of £600 million and if it had to make a higher bid it would have to increase its net borrowings further still. Thus to make and sustain such bids the offeror has to rely not upon the assets in his balance sheet but upon the larger assets in the target company's balance sheet.

In this sense the offeror is using his target's money in order to make the bid itself. Therefore, if the bid succeeds, so large is the debt and so heavy the pressure to reduce or discharge it, the decision-making of the new company on matters affecting public interest (viz, employment, competition, etc) are bound to be unduly influenced by the need to deal with indebtedness.

Hence, the public interest is at a greater risk in this form of takeover than it is in other forms of takeover. For these reasons I suggest that, until this form of takeover has been fully examined and, where necessary, ground rules established, they should be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for proper scrutiny, as has already been the bid by Elders DXL for Allied Lyons. Unless and until this exercise has been carried out it would be prudent to regard this form of takeover with considerable caution.

In reference to Argyl's bid for Distillers there is an added reason why this should be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The timing of it, straddling the Christmas and New Year holiday, has effectively stifled public debate - in the case of Parliament prevented it altogether - and has left the public at large with a remarkably short time to consider an offer document which, stretching over 60 pages, is complex and long. This cannot be the right way for us to conduct our affairs.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID HACKING,  
House of Lords,  
January 2.

### No honour for Geldof

From Mr Derek Bartlett

Sir, It is reported in today's issue of *The Times* (January 2) that the omission of Mr Bob Geldof from the New Year's Honours list is attributed to the fact that there is no precedent for giving an award to a non-British or Commonwealth citizen for activities which have not benefited this country or the Commonwealth.

I suggest that in the quite exceptional case of Mr Geldof this is not a justification. Indeed, he has performed a great service to this country in reawakening in its people a conscience and humanity to a level that no present day British politician or cleric could ever have done.

Moreover, the omission of his name is a failure to acknowledge the selfless service to mankind given by his organisation's team of British citizens.

That this nation wished to honour Mr Geldof is clear from the widespread expressions of shock and disappointment which have followed the omission. The failure to recognise this wish demonstrates again how far removed our elected leaders are from the rest of us.

A government allegedly concerned with public image would have derived much greater benefit from a modest award to Mr Geldof than from a knighthood conferred to reward advice on voice pitch and hair style.

I suspect that in leaving Mr Geldof out of her list, Mrs Thatcher may well have found the first banana skin of 1986.

Yours faithfully,  
DEREK BARTLETT,  
The Playways,  
Caversham,  
Berkshire,  
January 2.

### Lessons from Swiss

From Dr Michael P. O'Reilly

Sir, Following your recent article, "The student pauper" (December 18) I felt it only right to inform you of what has happened at a grass-roots level.

Students' entitlement to housing benefit began approximately two years ago. At that time the average rent per person in Exeter was between £10 and £15 per week. With the threat of the Fowler review of social security I have been looking at student rents in and around Exeter, only to find the average rent is now £20-£25 per week, a rise of 66 per cent in the top figure in under two years.

It is quite clear that the people benefiting from housing benefit are the landlords, not the students. But before Mr Fowler jumps on my letter as a good reason to cut housing benefit for students, may I pose him a question: How many landlords will lower their rents when housing benefit disappears?

A victory for the private sector, yet again, I think.

Yours faithfully,  
MARK A. F. HUBBARD,  
(Welfare Officer),  
Exeter University Guild of Students,  
Devonport House,  
Stocker Road, Exeter,  
Devon,  
December 18.

### The forgotten disease

From the General Secretary of the Confederation of Health Service Employees

Sir, I must take issue with some of the points you make in your leader of December 19 concerning the move toward community care. In the first place, it is wrong to dismiss the charge that the Government sees community care as a money-saving exercise.

Services for the mentally ill have long been under-funded in this country and a simple admission by the Government that "community care is not a cheap option" will not suffice to quell the fears of those who suspect that saving money is precisely the Government's intention.

Until the policy of an overall reduction in public expenditure

ceases, the NHS will remain unable to provide the capital and revenue expenditure needed to develop community care, and unless substantial additional funds are made available by the Government the public will continue to perceive community care as a money-saving exercise, no matter how plausible denials may sound.

Secondly, I would disagree with your recommendations on joint funding. While the ability of local authorities to provide adequate services for the mentally ill is undoubtedly distorted at present by cuts and rate-capping, their previous record of achievements in community care does not bode well for the future.

Even with better central funding, joint finance is unworkable. Services for the mentally ill are not regarded as a priority by most local authorities, and as high capital and revenue spending services they can become an electoral liability, if rate increases are the result.

### Labour learning from mistakes

From Mr Jeff Rooker, MP for Perry Barr (Labour)

Sir, Neil Kinnock is quite realistic in placing rationalization on the back burner. Critics had better make up their minds what they want, "more investment and new jobs" or "more investment for the same jobs". I know what my constituents will vote for.

Simply restoring the status quo will be unacceptable to workers, communities and customers. We could be offering more unaccountable, unrepresentative State monopolies, support for which is passive or, at most, based on a vested interest. Genuine accountability to Parliament has been non-existent. The former Birmingham Municipal Bank was more accountable to the citizens of Birmingham than any nationalised industry I can name.

If the general public had actually felt they owned and controlled the public-sector industries sold off it would have been difficult, if not impossible, for a well-off policy to have been put forward, let alone executed. The running of such industries has not even been in line with the Labour Party constitution, which calls for "common ownership" and the "best obtainable system of popular administration". Whatever else they have been, the administrations have not been "popular".

Time spent now using our brains on the structure and accountability of the existing public sector will pay dividends, not the least being the winning of wide public support for the public sector. The new investment required to put our people back to work will be public-sector led. It will not win support if we show that we have not learnt from our mistakes of the past.

Yours,  
JEFF ROOKER,  
House of Commons,  
December 31.

From Mr John Parfitt

Sir, I'm not rich and I don't own any shares in quoted companies. I do, however, have a stake in my company's pension fund and a couple of life insurance policies and my wife has a small unit trust holding. All of these investments are looked after for us by the so-called "institutions".

Does Mr Kinnock (report, December 30) now propose to penalise us for leaving it to them rather than running our own pathetic portfolios - an activity for which we have indeed the time nor the ability: nor indeed the wealth?

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN PARFITT,  
86 Higher Drive,  
Furley,  
Surrey,  
December 30.

### Sleepers awake

From the Reverend David A. Huntley

Sir, Professor Ian Falls asks (December 28) whether a longitudinal bunk would not be more sleep-inducing than the present BR sleeper design, in which they are always transverse to the rails.

I have asked myself the same question, especially after riding in trains a lot less smooth than BR's. Lateral movement when one is in a transverse bunk does appear to be less restful.

However, in southeast Asia one may still find sleeping cars of all types: those similar to BR's, as well as the older open bunk layout, and with transverse and longitudinal beds in either style.

After a score of rides in all types, both air-conditioned and not, I have come to the conclusion that sleep in sleeping cars is not a function of travel direction, but of tiredness and that lack of anything on my mind to keep me awake.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID A. HUNTLEY,  
c/o 55 Essenden Road,  
South Croydon, Surrey.

### Making the most of it

From Commander F. N. Ponsonby, RN

Sir, The anonymous writer of your "Food prices" feature this morning (December 27) alleges "Shepherd's pie... as its name indicates, used to be made from left-over mutton but is now invariably made from minced beef".

Not so in spite of the near-impossibility of obtaining mutton in this country a perfectly respectable shepherd's pie continues to be made from left-over lamb. The minced beef version should be called cottage pie.

I have the honour, etc,  
FRANCIS PONSONBY,  
Lythe Farm Cottage,  
Sleep,  
Petersfield,  
Hampshire,  
December 27.

These difficulties are further compounded by the diverse political nature of local government, causing significant variations in provision between one local authority and another, and the lamentably inadequate procedures for monitoring standards advocated by central Government.

Therefore, while agreeing with you that urgent action is now needed to overcome the plight of those suffering from mental illness, and that they should be treated in the community, until we see a dramatic change in Government policy towards the NHS, progress in this area is unlikely.

Yours faithfully,  
D. O. WILLIAMS,  
General Secretary,  
Confederation of Health Service Employees,  
Glen House,  
High Street,  
Banstead,  
Surrey,  
December 24.

## ON THIS DAY

JANUARY 4 1895

The premiere of this, the third comedy by Oscar Wilde (1856-1900) was attended by the Prince of Wales, who learned afterwards that some of the dialogue may be out of date.

### HAYMARKET THEATRE.

The departure of Mr. Tree and his company for America leaves the Haymarket Theatre for a brief season in the hands of Messrs. Lewis Waller and H. H. Morrell and these gentlemen have taken advantage of the opportunity to produce a new play by Mr. Oscar Wilde. This, *An Ideal Husband*, was brought out last night with a similar degree of success to that which has attended Sir R. B. C. Wilde's previous productions. It is a similar degree of success due to similar causes. For *An Ideal Husband* is marked by the same characteristics as *Lady Windermere's Fan* and *A Woman of No Importance*. There is a group of well-dressed women and men on the stage, talking a strained, inverted, but rather amusing idiom, while the action, the dramatic motive, of the play springs from a conventional device of the commonest order of melodrama. Mr. Wilde's ingenuity is verily there is none of this quality expended upon his plot and very little upon his characters, most of whom have caught their author's fancy of phantoms. The central figure of the story, the "ideal husband" himself, is a young and rising politician, one Sir Robert Chiltern, who has become Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, with prospects of entering the Cabinet; and he begins when this estimable and promising public man, adored by his wife and extolled by the Press as all that is noble and upright in private and public life, falls a victim of blackmail at the hands of an over-dressed adventurer of cosmopolitan experience named Mrs. Cheever.

With the exception of an odd tendency on the part of the dramatic personae to drop the subject in hand and score verbal successes at each other's expense, the story pursues a normal course and is well acted, and comes with a friend, Lord Goring, who rather bluntness recalls him to a sense of his duty as a politician. "If you make a clean breast of it," observes this mentor, "you will never be able to talk morality again, and if a man cannot talk morality twice a week to a large bourgeois audience there is no career for him as a politician; he can only fall back upon botany or the Church...."

To assume that the working out of this somewhat primitive story, which Mr. Wilde must have found rather than imagined, constitutes the interest of *An Ideal Husband* would be doing the play an injustice. Mr. Wilde's intention is to adorn the commonplace by force of epigram, and this aim he consistently pursues throughout his four acts. "Women discover everything except the obvious"; "Too much rouge and not enough clothes"; "It is always worth while to ask a question"; "A manly woman is a woman who is not afraid of a man"; "The modern woman understands everything except her husband"; "Morality is the attitude we adopt towards people we dislike"; "Vulgarity is the behaviour of other people" - such are a few of Mr. Wilde's epigrams, and, as they are distributed at random.

Despite an imposing array of names in the cast, the action is carried on mainly, not to say exclusively, by Mr. Lewis Waller as Sir Robert, Miss Julia Nelson as his wife, Mr. Charles Hawtrey as Lord Goring, and Miss Frances West as Mrs. Cheever, such capable assistants as Miss Fanny Brugh, Miss Vane Featherstone, Miss Maude Millett, and Mr. Alfred Bishop fulfilling in the "society" scenes of the piece a purely decorative function. The small part of a manservant is assigned to Mr. Brookfield, who hummies it with unexpected character. Admittedly serving the author and well served by him in return, Mr. Lewis Waller rivets attention upon the part of Sir Robert, which is played in his manliest and most robust style. It is his friend Lord Goring who discharges the best of the verbal fireworks of the piece, and the duty is well performed by Mr. Hawtrey.

### Classical top ten

From Mr David Chesterman

Sir, Analysis of all symphonies played in London's Barbican, Royal Albert, Royal Festival and Queen Elizabeth Halls, during the last season, Smith Square, during 1985 shows that Beethoven, who in 1984 lost to Mozart by half a symphony, has taken his revenge. He leads with 62½, the half being two performances of No 7's last movement given at the Barbican by Noel Tredinnick. Mozart is only one movement behind, with 62½. Dvorak falls to 32, 16 of these the "New World". Tchaikovsky scores 29 and, thanks to the LSO Festival, Mahler has gone up from 13½ to 24½ (including three "Blumens" at ½ each and three No 10 Adagios at ½ each).

Haydn is 21st with 21, and equal seventh are Brahms, Shostakovich and Mendelssohn, as in 1984, is tenth with 13. Sibelius, listed in 1984 with 15, drops to eleventh place, even though I have counted his "Kullervo".

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID CHESTERMAN,  
15 St. John's,  
Chorleywood,  
Hertfordshire,  
December 28.

### Wind in the wires

From Mr Mark Ash

Sir, Down our lane in this country area lived a fellow who acquired a London street lingo (front on), stuck truth in it, and went on at night to illumine his front garden and, presumably, evoke a boyhood memory or two.

Why doesn't Mr. Alar (December 27) negotiate with British Telecom for one of their departing telegraph poles, run wires from it to his nearest tree and ever thereafter, when the wind blows, enjoy his own private moan?

Yours faithfully,  
MARK ASH,  
Rudd Hill,  
North Gyley,  
Near Fordingbridge, Hampshire.

هك من النفل







## FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

### Imperial cries 'foul' as Hanson wades in

Lord Hanson's offer document for Imperial Group demonstrates that his bruising experiences in the American courts have not gone to waste. The tone of his document would do justice to the most biting of New York lawyers. Its immediate effect was to send Imperial's advisers, Hambros, rushing to the Takeover Panel crying "foul".

Although Imperial's chairman, Geoffrey Kent, expected Hanson to pull no punches in its £1.8 billion attempt to break up the cosy merger between Imps and United Biscuits, he feels this attack is well below the belt. Mr Kent cannot argue with Lord Hanson's gloating over the fact that £1,000 invested in Hanson Trust at the beginning of 1980 would now be worth more than three times as much as a similar investment in Imperial. That is indisputable. Neither can he really defend himself against Hanson Trust's allegations that United Biscuits' shareholders gain more from the proposed merger than do Imperial's. The figures bear that out.

But Mr Kent is understandably aggrieved by Hanson's loudly trumpeted statement that four unsuccessful attempts at diversification by Imperial have cost the company well over £1 billion. "A mismanagement of shareholders' funds of staggering proportions", declares Hanson. And so it would be were it true, but a closer examination of the quotation marks. Hanson is not talking about losses, but about "losses" and perhaps Mr Kent is right to feel that this might be somewhat misleading.

Imperial's mistakes were far from secret. The four that Hanson chooses to highlight are Howard Johnson, the recent extrication from which loss-making American hotel business left Imperial \$300 million down, and vulnerable to just such an attack as that launched by Hanson. Then there was Imperial's decision to sell its holding in Buzin in 1978 for \$3.6 million. It would be worth \$36 million today calculates Hanson, making that loss to Imperial of \$32 million. There was the 1978 purchase of food business JB Eastwood, sold just four years later at a loss of \$63 million to Hillsdown.

But this does not add up to anything like £1,000 million. The balance comes from Imperial's decision to get out of its holding in BAT Industries. Between 1975 and 1980 Imps sold its BAT shares for £239 million. "Today that holding would be worth £1,100 million and Imps' share of BAT Industries' profit would be £337 million," claims Hanson.

Imps could undoubtedly have done better in the past but notational losses are a dangerously fluid concept to try and quantify. "Since I took over as chairman in 1981 Imperial Group has shown a nearly 30 per cent a year growth in profits from its existing businesses and the shares have more than trebled in value," protests Mr Kent, an argument which is probably more acceptable to investigation than Lord Hanson's.

Lord Hanson's criticism of the proposed merger with United Biscuits - he cannot resist referring to it as a reverse takeover, a widely-accepted statement which is guaranteed to inflame Mr Kent - have more foundation. UB shareholders do come out with a greater share of the

assets than they put in, and scope for renegotiation of the terms seems scarce. New Hanson terms must be only a matter of time, though, and a price of closer to 300p, against the value of the current offer of just 240p, is likely. Imperial shares, at 258p, certainly expect something better.

The major uncertainty, and the one which is most exercising the Hanson camp, concerns the possibility of a Monopolies Commission reference. There are strong competition grounds for referring the UB-Imperial deal but none for referring Hanson/Imperial. Would the Government refer the first and leave the way clear for the second? Hanson fears that it might feel that equity demands that both deals be treated similarly.

How can a non-interventionist Government resolve such a quandary?

### Maxwell's double and Lazard's treble

Guinness Peat's failure to attract more than a meagre 1.9 per cent acceptance from other than "in house" holders of Britannia Arrow shares is a total defeat for Alastair Morton and the Guinness Peat board which he dominates. The result, for reasons set out here yesterday when advising shareholders to reject the bid, is right. And it owes much to the ubiquitous, many-sided Mirror press baron, Robert Maxwell. He does not always get it right but he is, by nature, a winner.

Britannia Arrow is now in a state of unstable, but expectant, equilibrium. Shareholders should wait to see how the new situation, in which Mr Maxwell and David Stevens, of MIM, United Newspapers and now Britannia, loom large, is resolved.

Guinness Peat's lack of impact further strains Mr Morton's credibility and makes Guinness Peat's next move critical but not simple. It can continue to churn old ground but that would win it few new supporters. Its bid to become a sizable investment management group has foundered and Guinness Peat, the company's merchant bank, can only hope to operate on the fringe of the City's

The other chief mourner yesterday was Morgan Grenfell, which acted for Guinness Peat in the Britannia bid. Through professional skill and boldness bordering on recklessness Morgan last year went to the top of the mergers and acquisitions gladiators' league. In corporate finance nothing succeeds like success; but excess of zeal can have unwanted consequences. Morgan's tigers, whom Christopher Reeves, Morgan's senior keeper has wistfully admitted, may have got out of control are licking their wounds.

Lazard and Schrodes in particular, Lazard, with Neil Mackay leading in the rout of Guinness Peat, must now believe it can mesmerize Morgan. Three times Morgan clients have begun a fight with 28 per cent of the target company's shares: three times Lazard has defended successfully; Sotheby's (against Mr Cogan and Mr Swid); Eagle Star (Allianz); and now Britannia Arrow. A hat-trick to set alongside Mr Maxwell's double: Britannia and a cut of 2,100 in Mirror Group Newspapers' 7,000 pay-roll.

### Reserves at danger level

The bunker mentality was well to the fore yesterday as the Treasury reported an underlying fall in the level of reserves of \$401 million, the sharpest drop since December 1982, and double the rate of decline reported in November. All officials were prepared to say - and what they could actually bring themselves to mutter sounded tenuous - was that the fall represented a variety of transactions, debits and credits. The fall should not necessarily be treated as indicative of intervention in the foreign exchange market.

Well, they would say that, wouldn't they, snapped the traders, recalling that in days of yore, the Chancellor had been a dedicated opponent of exchange rate intervention. So far as the market is concerned, sterling appears to have come under considerable selling pressure during December, when fears of an oil price war, caused by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, were at their height, and the Bank of England responded, judging by the reserves figures, by wading into the market.

The situation is not immediately critical but there is evidence of serious deterio-

ration in the level of British official reserves. The stock of reserves was topped up in October by a \$2½ billion floating rate note; yet adjusting for this increment, the convertible currency component of the reserves may be no more than about \$8 billion, or rather less than one month's dollar cost of imports. Normally foreign bankers begin to scream if a less developed country where this criterion applies, runs cover below three months.

Analysts were also taken by the net position of Exchange Cover Scheme borrowings which effectively is a way for nationalized industries to meet their spending targets by overseas borrowing rather than through domestic money markets. Borrowings under the scheme rose sharply from \$60 million to \$159 million, while repayments fell sharply.

This suggests that Britain's net borrowed position may have continued to worsen from the near \$3 billion figure reported in September.

All in all, not a happy position for the authorities, who may face further pressure on sterling if oil prices continue to weaken. In the short term, it means that interest rates are bound to stay high.

### Baldrige still confident of 4% growth

Mr Malcolm Baldrige, the US Commerce Secretary, yesterday expressed confidence that a falling dollar and declining interest rates plus continued low inflation would produce the 4 per cent growth that the Reagan Administration has forecast for this year.

Confirming that he privately agreed with the forecast, despite predictions by independent economists that growth would be slower than 4 per cent, he said: "We're going to see, as the dollar drops more, which I think it will, an increase in exports beginning about the middle of this year. That's going to add some employment."

"We're going to see, I think, a further decline in interest rates. That's going to mean more jobs and housing. We're going to see inflation stay in roughly the same area (it is now)."

## Allies win battle to block Britannia Arrow takeover

By William Kay, City Editor

Britannia Arrow Holdings, the unit trust and fund management group, yesterday defeated the £280 million takeover bid by Guinness Peat, the merchant banking and insurance group, and immediately celebrated by inviting on to the board Mr David Stevens, the merchant banker who with the publisher Mr Robert Maxwell, played a key part in Britannia's victory.

Mr Michael Newman, Britannia's chief executive, said: "I am very pleased. The bid was unwanted and inadequate, and now we can look forward to the future with confidence. Obviously there will have to be further discussions with Mr Stevens and Mr Maxwell."

Together the Stevens-Maxwell camp bought 26 per cent, compared with the 28 per cent that Guinness had bought from UK Provident Institution and through the market. Neither Mr



Friends and foe: David Stevens (left) and Robert Maxwell vs Alastair Morton (right).

Newman nor Mr Alastair Morton, Guinness Peat's chief executive, would comment on the possibility of a Guinness Peat representative joining the Britannia board.

By the 3.30pm deadline yesterday the £280 million bid had been accepted by holders of only 11.5 per cent of Britannia's shares. Of those, 1.8 per

and accordingly has let its offer lapse. On the news Britannia shares fell 3p to 138p. Guinness Peat shares rose 1p to 72p.

Mr Morton immediately congratulated Mr Newman on his defence campaign.

However, Mr Morton added: "Neither would have prevailed if Mr Newman had not produced arguments to persuade Messrs Maxwell and Stevens to commit about £55 million to Britannia. Neither the market nor we have yet been told what persuaded them to do so."

Mr Maxwell, Mr Stevens and other allies together acquired 26 per cent of Britannia's shares, arguing that Guinness Peat's offer was not good enough. The offer was worth 150p a share in equity and loan notes, with a cash alternative of 137p.

However, it was widely expected in the City last night that a further deal would have to be reached, to unwind the two large majority holdings.

### Lonrho air firm 'shut' by new law

By Patricia Wheatcroft

Lonrho has shut its air-freight subsidiary Tradewinds with effect from today. The company says it can no longer operate profitably and it puts much of the blame for its problems on the British Government.

Lonrho's managing director, Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland has a long-running dispute with the Government over the decision to disallow his bid for House of Fraser whilst not referring the bid from the Egyptian Al-Fayed brothers to the Monopolies Commission.

His argument over Trade-winds legislation which requires aeroplanes to be made much quieter. This process, known as hush-kitting, costs \$2.5 million per aircraft and, claims Tradewinds, puts his operations at a competitive disadvantage against companies which are not required to hush-kill.

Sir Edward du Cann, chairman of Lonrho and Tradewinds, detailed the predicament in Parliament last year.

"To date nothing has been done to ameliorate the situation," Tradewinds says.

The company was established in 1968 and was bought by Lonrho in 1977. It operates three Boeing 707 freighters.

The planes operate regular freight services to Nigeria, Sudan, Canada, USA, Muscat and Dubai. These routes have become increasingly competitive recently, and Tradewinds says it is no longer possible to operate profitably. This is due, in part, it says, to over-capacity leading to rate-cutting. Another problem has been increased competition from Third World airlines which are not bound by such stringent safety requirements as British companies.

The need to hush-kill was the last straw which forced Tradewinds into its decision to cease trading today. Lonrho says all debts will be honoured.

The need to hush-kill came into operation on Wednesday. Overseas companies operating in Britain do not need to hush-kill until 1988.

### Property firms call off £19m merger

The agreed £19.7 million merger between Trafford Park Estates and Wingate Property Investments was called off yesterday. The board of Trafford Park Estates decided that since the merger was agreed in October, exceptional factors had emerged which made it no longer in the best interests of shareholders. Wingate's board takes the same view.

It is believed that differences over the future management of Trafford Park Estates are behind the demise of the merger. Mr Stephan Wingate, managing director of Wingate, was widely believed to be the heir apparent to Mr Neil Westbrook, chairman of Trafford Park Estates who is likely to retire soon.

### Doubts over £400m Nigerian notes

By Teresa Poole

The Central Bank of Nigeria intends to complete the issue of billions of dollars of promissory notes to short-term trade creditors by the end of June.

A bank spokesman said in Lagos yesterday that the recent budget proposals and the Nigerian government's decision to seek the rescheduling of medium and long-term debt would not hold up the process. In London, companies and bankers were sceptical that the deadline would be met.

Under an agreement in April, 1984, Chase Manhattan Bank in London has been acting to reconcile the claims of exporters with the records of importers for debts liable before the end of 1983. So far this has led to the issue of about \$1.3 billion in promissory notes, compared with estimates of up to \$7 billion for Nigeria's total short-term trade debts.

The Central Bank of Nigeria is now saying that valid claims will be sorted by the end of March. About 200,000 claims were registered before the closing date, December 31, 1985. According to bankers close to the situation, the timescale given by the Central Bank is "very optimistic".

The Export Credits Guarantee Department has insured

\$400 million of short-term debts for British companies trading with Nigeria, and has so far paid out £250 million to creditors.

It is estimated that another \$400 million of British exports is not insured, so creditors must rely on the issue of promissory notes.

The Central Bank has been criticized over the slow progress so far. It is believed that about 80 per cent of processed claims have been rejected or queried, sometimes because of spelling mistakes. The first repayment on the promissory notes is due in October and all notes will have to be issued by then.

British companies have had varying success in obtaining promissory notes. A spokesman for ICI said the company has around £10 million of uninsured trade debts with Nigeria and had so far received notes for about a fifth of that.

Blue Circle is thought to be owed a considerable sum but to date has received only one note worth just \$6,000.

One of the biggest trade creditors is Unilever, with outstanding debts of about £100 million, most of which is insured by the ECGB or covered by promissory notes.

### £11m buyout of GKN division

By Our City Staff

Guest Keen and Nettlefolds has sold its fasteners division for £11.6 million in a management buyout. GKN will no longer have an interest in one of its founding businesses, the manufacture of screws, in which it has been involved since 1902.

The sale is the latest in a series of divestments. In 1980 the company decided to concentrate on the supply of motor components, the defence industry and industrial services. During 1985 disposals raised £43 million with a further £4 million due this year, including this latest deal.

A new company, European Industrial Services, is the vehicle for the buyout, and Citicorp Venture Capital has led a syndicate of three equity investors and five banks from four countries. Five directors and five senior managers are involved in the buyout and the managing director of EIS is Mr John Huband, previously the chief executive of GKN's fasteners division.

In Britain the fasteners division manufactures wood screws, self-tapping screws and associated products and distributes a wide range of fasteners. EIS is also buying the European subsidiaries.

### IN BRIEF

#### Defection at Nasdim

The first serious defection from one of the City's intended self-regulatory organizations appears likely. The investment manager Foreign and Colonial Management Group is preparing to leave the National Association of Securities Dealers and Investment Managers (Nasdim).

Foreign and Colonial, responsible for £1.3 billion of funds under management including the £600 million Foreign and Colonial Investment Trust, is about to join the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (IMRO), which intends to represent investment managers and advisers, in the City's new self-regulatory framework.

Mr Kevin Pakenham, managing director of Foreign and Colonial management group, said yesterday: "We are examining the position in the light of forthcoming changes in legislation. It is probable that IMRO will be more suitable for us than Nasdim, but no formal decision has been made."

#### Market record

Shares, as measured by the FT 30 share index, achieved a new closing peak yesterday. The index finished with an 11.1 point gain at 1,149.6 points. Its previous peak was in November when it reached 1,146.9 points. Stock Market report, Page 13.

Ensign Trust, formerly the Murray Growth Trust, which was acquired by Merchant Navy Officers Pension Investments in September, is subscribing \$8 million (£2.6) to buy 508,000 shares in First Colonial Bankshares of Chicago. Ensign's holding in the bank's enlarged equity will remain at 17.5 per cent.

#### Kier defence

French Kier, the civil engineering company, has estimated pre-tax profits of £20.5 million in 1985, a rise of 25 per cent, as part of its defence against the £113 million bid from C H Beazer.

Tempus, page 13

#### No BHS inquiry

Mr Leon Brittan, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, has decided not to refer the proposed merger of Habitat Mothercare and British Home Stores to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Oppenheimer

## EUROPE '86: From strength to strength.

In September 1984 we strongly recommended Europe as the place to invest. Our judgement has proven to be sound.

The Oppenheimer European Growth Trust has risen by a remarkable 76%\* since its launch in September 1984 to 1st December 1985.

For the fourth month running our fund is the top performing European Unit Trust over the preceding twelve month period.

It was cited in the Winners Sector of the Observer on 15th December.

We believe that investment prospects remain outstanding in Europe for 1986. To take full advantage act now.

Contact our dealers on

### 01-236 3885 (6 lines).

\*Offer to bid from launch 1.984 to 1.12.85 net income reinvested. Source: Planned Savings. The price of units can go down as well as up.

A MEMBER COMPANY OF THE

Mercantile House Group

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICES

### MARKET SUMMARY

#### STOCK MARKETS

FT Ind Ord	1,149.6 (+11.6)
FT All Share	550.90 (+4.18)
FT Govt Securities	82.51 (-0.28)
FT-SE 100	1,429.8 (+8.3)
Bargains	19,440
Datasearch USM	108.95 (+0.55)
New York	
Dow Jones	1,546.09 (+8.38)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	1,791.23 (+16.85)
Amsterdam	262.8 (+2.1)
Sydney AO	1,020.3 (+8.5)
Frankfurt	
Commerzbank	2,025.9 (+88.5)
Brussels	
General	800.98 (-43.7)
Paris CAC	277.5 (+5.7)
Zurich	
SKA General	504.70 (+40)

#### GOLD

London fixing	an \$325.00 pm \$325.75
Amsterd	\$327.25-327.75
(2227.50-2228.00)	
New York	
Comex (Latest)	\$327.75

#### MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RUSSE	
Standard Higgs	25p +4p
Regalton Prop	380p +5p
Plastic Const	18p +8p
Campani Int	41p +4p
East Rand Cons	41p +4p
Wordplex	71p +8p
Stewart Nairn	12p +1p
Richards	48p +4p
Trafford Park	215p +17p
Weber Higgs	108p +6p
Falcon Inds	25p +2p
Parkland Textile	135p +10p
Microwitac	28p +2p
BL	31p +2p
A B Elects	208p +13p
London & Northern	84.5 +4p
Bulbough	217p +13p
Evode Group	118p +7p
Lhread	88p +4p
Blue Arrow	205p +12p

#### FALLS

Zygal Dynamics	18p -3p
Micro Bus Syst	62p -10p
Intervision Video	4.5p -0.5p
Shaw Carpets	32p -2p

#### CURRENCIES

London:	
\$	1.4387 (-0.0073)
DM	3.5484 (+0.0131)
Sfr	2.9824 (+0.0113)
FF	10.8953 (+0.0427)
Yen	291.55 (+3.36)
Index	78.0 (+0.1)
New York:	
\$	1.4395
DM	2.4805
Sfr	128.1 (+0.7)
ECU	10.514453
SDR	10.757887
INTEREST RATES	
London:	
Bank Base	11½%
3-month interbank	11½-11¾%
3-month eligible bills	buying rate 11½-11¾%
US:	
Prime Rate	9.50%
Federal Funds	8½%
3-month Treasury Bills	7.08-7.06%
30-year bond price	105½



THE TIMES  
Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page.

If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Year ended
1	Blue Circle	
2	Brickworks	
3	Pochins	
4	Ward	
5	Calliford	
6	French King	
7	Lancaster (Walker)	
8	Dunlop (R&M)	
9	Wiggins	
10	Crook (Dunk)	
11	Alfred Lyons	
12	Scott & New	
13	Greene King	
14	Boddingtons	
15	Vaux	
16	Onward	
17	Whitbread 'A'	
18	Clark (Matthew)	
19	Irish Dist	
20	Greenall Whitley	
21	INDUSTRIALS A-D	
22	TNT	
23	Unigroup	
24	Scot MacLellan	
25	Wade Patisserie	
26	TSI Thermal	
27	Vickers	
28	Triforce	
29	Tomkins (F&H)	
30	Smiths Ltd	
31	Bridgwater Gp	
32	Bromsgrove Inds	
33	Amcor	
34	Bowater	
35	Baker Perkins	
36	De La Rue	
37	STR	
38	Brown & Toner	
39	Christian Int	
40	Brundage (M&S)	

Weekly Dividend  
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £20,000 in today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	WEEKLY

## BRITISH FUNDS

1985 High Low Company Price Ch'ge since % P/E

## SHORTS (Under Five Years)

1985 High Low Company Price Ch'ge since % P/E

## FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1985 High Low Company Price Ch'ge since % P/E

## OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1985 High Low Company Price Ch'ge since % P/E

## UNDATED

1985 High Low Company Price Ch'ge since % P/E

## INDEX-LINKED

1985 High Low Company Price Ch'ge since % P/E

## BREWERIES

1985 High Low Company Price Ch'ge since % P/E

## BANKS DISCOUNT HP

1985 High Low Company Price Ch'ge since % P/E

## ELECTRICALS

1985 High Low Company Price Ch'ge since % P/E

## INDUSTRIALS A-D

1985 High Low Company Price Ch'ge since % P/E

## HOTELS AND CATERERS

1985 High Low Company Price Ch'ge since % P/E

## INDUSTRIALS E-Z

1985 High Low Company Price Ch'ge since % P/E

## MOTORCARS AND AIRCRAFT

1985 High Low Company Price Ch'ge since % P/E

## NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS

1985 High Low Company Price Ch'ge since % P/E

## OIL

1985 High Low Company Price Ch'ge since % P/E

## OVERSEAS TRADERS

1985 High Low Company Price Ch'ge since % P/E

## PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERT'G

1985 High Low Company Price Ch'ge since % P/E

## PROPERTY

1985 High Low Company Price Ch'ge since % P/E

## SHIPPING

1985 High Low Company Price Ch'ge since % P/E

## SHOES AND LEATHER

1985 High Low Company Price Ch'ge since % P/E

## TEXTILES

1985 High Low Company Price Ch'ge since % P/E

## TOBACCO

1985 High Low Company Price Ch'ge since % P/E

## STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

## Shares at new peak

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 23. Dealings End, Jan 10. Contango Day, Jan 13. Settlement Day, Jan 20.  
\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

1985 High Low Company Price Ch'ge since % P/E	1985 High Low Company Price Ch'ge since % P/E	1985 High Low Company Price Ch'ge since % P/E	1985 High Low Company Price Ch'ge since % P/E
<b>BUILDING AND ROADS</b>	<b>BUILDING AND ROADS</b>	<b>BUILDING AND ROADS</b>	<b>BUILDING AND ROADS</b>
1 Blue Circle	1 Blue Circle	1 Blue Circle	1 Blue Circle
2 Brickworks	2 Brickworks	2 Brickworks	2 Brickworks
3 Pochins	3 Pochins	3 Pochins	3 Pochins
4 Ward	4 Ward	4 Ward	4 Ward
5 Calliford	5 Calliford	5 Calliford	5 Calliford
6 French King	6 French King	6 French King	6 French King
7 Lancaster (Walker)	7 Lancaster (Walker)	7 Lancaster (Walker)	7 Lancaster (Walker)
8 Dunlop (R&M)	8 Dunlop (R&M)	8 Dunlop (R&M)	8 Dunlop (R&M)
9 Wiggins	9 Wiggins	9 Wiggins	9 Wiggins
10 Crook (Dunk)	10 Crook (Dunk)	10 Crook (Dunk)	10 Crook (Dunk)
11 Alfred Lyons	11 Alfred Lyons	11 Alfred Lyons	11 Alfred Lyons
12 Scott & New	12 Scott & New	12 Scott & New	12 Scott & New
13 Greene King	13 Greene King	13 Greene King	13 Greene King
14 Boddingtons	14 Boddingtons	14 Boddingtons	14 Boddingtons
15 Vaux	15 Vaux	15 Vaux	15 Vaux
16 Onward	16 Onward	16 Onward	16 Onward
17 Whitbread 'A'	17 Whitbread 'A'	17 Whitbread 'A'	17 Whitbread 'A'
18 Clark (Matthew)	18 Clark (Matthew)	18 Clark (Matthew)	18 Clark (Matthew)
19 Irish Dist	19 Irish Dist	19 Irish Dist	19 Irish Dist
20 Greenall Whitley	20 Greenall Whitley	20 Greenall Whitley	20 Greenall Whitley
21 TNT	21 TNT	21 TNT	21 TNT
22 Unigroup	22 Unigroup	22 Unigroup	22 Unigroup
23 Scot MacLellan	23 Scot MacLellan	23 Scot MacLellan	23 Scot MacLellan
24 Wade Patisserie	24 Wade Patisserie	24 Wade Patisserie	24 Wade Patisserie
25 TSI Thermal	25 TSI Thermal	25 TSI Thermal	25 TSI Thermal
26 Vickers	26 Vickers	26 Vickers	26 Vickers
27 Triforce	27 Triforce	27 Triforce	27 Triforce
28 Tomkins (F&H)	28 Tomkins (F&H)	28 Tomkins (F&H)	28 Tomkins (F&H)
29 Smiths Ltd	29 Smiths Ltd	29 Smiths Ltd	29 Smiths Ltd
30 Bridgwater Gp	30 Bridgwater Gp	30 Bridgwater Gp	30 Bridgwater Gp
31 Bromsgrove Inds	31 Bromsgrove Inds	31 Bromsgrove Inds	31 Bromsgrove Inds
32 Amcor	32 Amcor	32 Amcor	32 Amcor
33 Bowater	33 Bowater	33 Bowater	33 Bowater
34 Baker Perkins	34 Baker Perkins	34 Baker Perkins	34 Baker Perkins
35 De La Rue	35 De La Rue	35 De La Rue	35 De La Rue
36 STR	36 STR	36 STR	36 STR
37 Brown & Toner	37 Brown & Toner	37 Brown & Toner	37 Brown & Toner
38 Christian Int	38 Christian Int	38 Christian Int	38 Christian Int
39 Brundage (M&S)	39 Brundage (M&S)	39 Brundage (M&S)	39 Brundage (M&S)
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THE TIMES  
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DAILY  
DIVIDEND  
£2.000  
Claims required  
for  
+45 points

WEEKLY  
DIVIDEND  
£20.000  
Claims required  
for  
+151 points



## FOREIGN EXCHANGES

The dollar scored widespread gains yesterday as remarks by the governor of Bank of Japan had operators rushing to cover their short positions.

The American currency climbed more than 4 yen in less than half an hour in immediate response to the governor's declaration that he did not want to see the yen rise above its year-end level of 200.60 to the dollar ahead of the Tokyo summit meeting in May.

The dollar, down to about 198.50 yen in the far East, swung up to touch 202.80 in the space of 20 minutes on the statement.

It closed in London at 202.60 compared with 199.25 on Thursday.

Other currencies retreated with the yen. Sterling, a shade over 1.46 to the dollar in the Far East, was back around the overnight 1.4660 shortly after the London opening.

At the close the pound was at net 73 points down at 1.4387.

## STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates	Market rates	1 month	3 months
New York	198.50	198.50	198.50
London	198.50	198.50	198.50
Frankfurt	198.50	198.50	198.50
Paris	198.50	198.50	198.50
Amsterdam	198.50	198.50	198.50
Brussels	198.50	198.50	198.50
Copenhagen	198.50	198.50	198.50
Stockholm	198.50	198.50	198.50
Oslo	198.50	198.50	198.50
Helsinki	198.50	198.50	198.50
Tokyo	198.50	198.50	198.50
Singapore	198.50	198.50	198.50
Calcutta	198.50	198.50	198.50
Madras	198.50	198.50	198.50
Bombay	198.50	198.50	198.50
Colombo	198.50	198.50	198.50
Calcutta	198.50	198.50	198.50
Madras	198.50	198.50	198.50
Bombay	198.50	198.50	198.50
Colombo	198.50	198.50	198.50

## OTHER STERLING RATES

Market rates	Market rates	1 month	3 months
New York	198.50	198.50	198.50
London	198.50	198.50	198.50
Frankfurt	198.50	198.50	198.50
Paris	198.50	198.50	198.50
Amsterdam	198.50	198.50	198.50
Brussels	198.50	198.50	198.50
Copenhagen	198.50	198.50	198.50
Stockholm	198.50	198.50	198.50
Oslo	198.50	198.50	198.50
Helsinki	198.50	198.50	198.50
Tokyo	198.50	198.50	198.50
Singapore	198.50	198.50	198.50
Calcutta	198.50	198.50	198.50
Madras	198.50	198.50	198.50
Bombay	198.50	198.50	198.50
Colombo	198.50	198.50	198.50
Calcutta	198.50	198.50	198.50
Madras	198.50	198.50	198.50
Bombay	198.50	198.50	198.50
Colombo	198.50	198.50	198.50

## MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Trading continued quiet yesterday. Period rates showed some firming as the pound retreated with other leading currencies in favour of the dollar.

The overnight rate, opening at 11 1/2 per cent, slipped to 11 1/4 per cent, then to 11 1/8 per cent during lunch before rising in response to conditions.

Interbank rates showed increases of 1/4 beyond the three-month rates or even 1/2 per cent in the lower rates.

Sterling certificates as deposit firmed 1/4 per cent.

## EURO-CURRENCY DEPOSITS

Market rates	Market rates	1 month	3 months
New York	198.50	198.50	198.50
London	198.50	198.50	198.50
Frankfurt	198.50	198.50	198.50
Paris	198.50	198.50	198.50
Amsterdam	198.50	198.50	198.50
Brussels	198.50	198.50	198.50
Copenhagen	198.50	198.50	198.50
Stockholm	198.50	198.50	198.50
Oslo	198.50	198.50	198.50
Helsinki	198.50	198.50	198.50
Tokyo	198.50	198.50	198.50
Singapore	198.50	198.50	198.50
Calcutta	198.50	198.50	198.50
Madras	198.50	198.50	198.50
Bombay	198.50	198.50	198.50
Colombo	198.50	198.50	198.50
Calcutta	198.50	198.50	198.50
Madras	198.50	198.50	198.50
Bombay	198.50	198.50	198.50
Colombo	198.50	198.50	198.50

## TREASURY BILL TENDER

Market rates	Market rates	1 month	3 months
New York	198.50	198.50	198.50
London	198.50	198.50	198.50
Frankfurt	198.50	198.50	198.50
Paris	198.50	198.50	198.50
Amsterdam	198.50	198.50	198.50
Brussels	198.50	198.50	198.50
Copenhagen	198.50	198.50	198.50
Stockholm	198.50	198.50	198.50
Oslo	198.50	198.50	198.50
Helsinki	198.50	198.50	198.50
Tokyo	198.50	198.50	198.50
Singapore	198.50	198.50	198.50
Calcutta	198.50	198.50	198.50
Madras	198.50	198.50	198.50
Bombay	198.50	198.50	198.50
Colombo	198.50	198.50	198.50
Calcutta	198.50	198.50	198.50
Madras	198.50	198.50	198.50
Bombay	198.50	198.50	198.50
Colombo	198.50	198.50	198.50

## INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Market rates	Market rates	1 month	3 months
New York	198.50	198.50	198.50
London	198.50	198.50	198.50
Frankfurt	198.50	198.50	198.50
Paris	198.50	198.50	198.50
Amsterdam	198.50	198.50	198.50
Brussels	198.50	198.50	198.50
Copenhagen	198.50	198.50	198.50
Stockholm	198.50	198.50	198.50
Oslo	198.50	198.50	198.50
Helsinki	198.50	198.50	198.50
Tokyo	198.50	198.50	198.50
Singapore	198.50	198.50	198.50
Calcutta	198.50	198.50	198.50
Madras	198.50	198.50	198.50
Bombay	198.50	198.50	198.50
Colombo	198.50	198.50	198.50
Calcutta	198.50	198.50	198.50
Madras	198.50	198.50	198.50
Bombay	198.50	198.50	198.50
Colombo	198.50	198.50	198.50

## COMMODITIES

Market rates	Market rates	1 month	3 months
New York	198.50	198.50	198.50
London	198.50	198.50	198.50
Frankfurt	198.50	198.50	198.50
Paris	198.50	198.50	198.50
Amsterdam	198.50	198.50	198.50
Brussels	198.50	198.50	198.50
Copenhagen	198.50	198.50	198.50
Stockholm	198.50	198.50	198.50
Oslo	198.50	198.50	198.50
Helsinki	198.50	198.50	198.50
Tokyo	198.50	198.50	198.50
Singapore	198.50	198.50	198.50
Calcutta	198.50	198.50	198.50
Madras	198.50	198.50	198.50
Bombay	198.50	198.50	198.50
Colombo	198.50	198.50	198.50
Calcutta	198.50	198.50	198.50
Madras	198.50	198.50	198.50
Bombay	198.50	198.50	198.50
Colombo	198.50	198.50	198.50

## WALL STREET

New York (Agency): The change index was up 0.45 to 121.19 and the price of an average share was up 13 cents.

Advancing shares led declines with 841-429 among the 1,739 issues crossing the tape.

Volume amounted to about 33,200,000 shares compared with 31,110,000 in the same period on Thursday.

Market rates	Market rates	1 month	3 months
New York	198.50	198.50	198.50
London	198.50	198.50	198.50
Frankfurt	198.50	198.50	198.50
Paris	198.50	198.50	198.50
Amsterdam	198.50	198.50	198.50
Brussels	198.50	198.50	198.50
Copenhagen	198.50	198.50	198.50
Stockholm	198.50	198.50	198.50
Oslo	198.50	198.50	198.50
Helsinki	198.50	198.50	198.50
Tokyo	198.50	198.50	198.50
Singapore	198.50	198.50	198.50
Calcutta	198.50	198.50	198.50
Madras	198.50	198.50	198.50
Bombay	198.50	198.50	198.50
Colombo	198.50	198.50	198.50
Calcutta	198.50	198.50	198.50
Madras	198.50	198.50	198.50
Bombay	198.50	198.50	198.50
Colombo	198.50	198.50	198.50

## LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Market rates	Market rates	1 month	3 months
New York	198.50	198.50	198.50
London	198.50	198.50	198.50
Frankfurt	198.50	198.50	198.50
Paris	198.50	198.50	198.50
Amsterdam	198.50	198.50	198.50
Brussels	198.50	198.50	198.50
Copenhagen	198.50	198.50	198.50
Stockholm	198.50	198.50	198.50
Oslo	198.50	198.50	198.50
Helsinki	198.50	198.50	198.50
Tokyo	198.50	198.50	198.50
Singapore	198.50	198.50	198.50
Calcutta	198.50	198.50	198.50
Madras	198.50	198.50	198.50
Bombay	198.50	198.50	198.50
Colombo	198.50	198.50	198.50
Calcutta	198.50	198.50	198.50
Madras	198.50	198.50	198.50
Bombay	198.50	198.50	198.50
Colombo	198.50	198.50	198.50

## FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Market rates	Market rates	1 month	3 months
New York	198.50	198.50	198.50
London	198.50	198.50	198.50
Frankfurt	198.50	198.50	198.50
Paris	198.50	198.50	198.50
Amsterdam	198.50	198.50	198.50
Brussels	198.50	198.50	198.50
Copenhagen	198.50	198.50	198.50
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Madras	198.50	198.50	198.50
Bombay	198.50	198.50	198.50
Colombo	198.50	198.50	198.50
Calcutta	198.50	198.50	198.50
Madras	198.50	198.50	198.50
Bombay	198.50	198.50	198.50
Colombo	198.50	198.50	198.50

## APPOINTMENTS

Market rates	Market rates	1 month	3 months
New York	198.50	198.50	198.50
London	198.50	198.50	198.50
Frankfurt	198.50	198.50	198.50
Paris	198.50	198.50	198.50
Amsterdam	198.50	198.50	198.50
Brussels	198.50	198.50	198.50
Copenhagen	198.50	198.50	198.50
Stockholm	198.50	198.50	198.50
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Calcutta	198.50	198.50	198.50
Madras	198.50	198.50	198.50
Bombay	198.50	198.50	198.50
Colombo	198.50	198.50	198.50

## Big rise in sales of cream liqueurs

By Teresa Poole

Cream-based liqueurs for the after-dinner drinker have been one of the alcoholic successes of 1985.

Better distribution and wider availability has stimulated demand, and it is thought that they are being favoured increasingly by women.

The market for cream-based liqueurs is seasonal and the two months before Christmas saw an aggressive marketing battle among the leading brands.

The clear market leader - and also the world's best selling liqueur - is Baileys Original Irish Cream, a blend of Irish whiskey, chocolate and cream, made by Grand Metropolitan's wine and spirits division, International Distillers and Vintners.

Baileys holds between 60 and 70 per cent of the British market.

According to the Victoria Wine Company, sales of 800 outlets of cream-based liqueurs as a whole were up by 15 per cent over the Christmas period. Much of the growth came from the Allied-Lyons blends, Becherovce and Country Satin, and the newly-launched Calypso.

Baileys faces competition from both ends of the market. It typically retails for £5.79 for a bottle while the Allied-Lyons brands, which use British wine as a base, are up to £1.60 a bottle cheaper.

In the run-up to Christmas Allied-Lyons spent £700,000 on television advertising alone for the rum and coconut-flavoured Becherovce and the whisky and Devon cream Country Satin combination. It now claims these products hold a quarter of the market.

At the top end of the market is Creme de Grand Marnier, a cream-based liqueur of the orange-flavoured cognac, which sells for about £6.95 a bottle. It is imported and distributed by United Rum Merchants, another Allied-Lyons subsidiary.

Baileys launched its new advertising campaign two months ago and claims that 1985 has been the best year for a long time, with sales 20 per cent up on the previous year. "I think that competition is good for the category," said Mr James Espar, chairman and managing director of IDV (UK).

## STOCK MARKET REPORT

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

A record-breaking market and orders from the military gave a boost to electrical shares yesterday, helping General Electric Company and Lucas Industries shares in particular to march ahead.

GEC was already in favour after this week's news of a £250 million worth of work on Stingray torpedoes kept the price bubbling. Lucas Industries will share in the naval contract, making the automakers for the torpedoes.

GEC saw its share price rise 5p to 178p, while Lucas rose 15p to 308p. Lucas is now a firm favourite in the City, having been lifted by brokers' recommendations and bid hopes over the past few months.

But there is more to come for GEC. Analysts confidently expect another big order for the company, this time from the Middle East. Talk in the City suggests GEC will complete its half-trick with a near £450 million contract for communications equipment.

News that Wood Mackenzie, the broker, is putting GEC firmly back on its buy list is also likely to push the share price higher still. Those investors who have been hoping to see the shares climb back above 200p - last seen in early 1985 - may not have long to wait.

Racal Electronics was also well-favoured



# Take stock to share in the good times

## INVESTMENT

As the New Year comes in investors will probably remember 1985 best for the scandals in the City - Lloyd's, Johnson Matthey and the like - and for the recently published Financial Services Bill, the implications of which will take many months to digest.

Home owners with mortgages, and borrowers generally, are more likely to associate 1985 with the highest interest rates in real terms for years, and the squeeze that put on their disposable income.

Conversely, 1985 will be remembered with a warm glow by building society and bank savers who received a real return on their investment as well as anyone fully invested in stock markets around the world where so many new highs were achieved.

But what of 1986? Already the pundits are nervous about the continued strength of the bull market in Britain. The fizz frothing over in the past two months of the year has reinforced the pessimists' view that the autumn stock market excitement was only the last flourish before a bear market.

Howard Flight, among others, says: "Anyone anticipating the 'peaking out' as the currency dealers put it, of the US dollar in 1985, should have been shot to pieces, its subsequent recovery looks reasonably secure."

Mr Flight, who runs Guinness Mahon's managed currency funds, reckons that the Group of Five meeting last September will be viewed as a

major watershed for currencies. Governments agreed to intervene in exchange markets to try to iron out some of the wilder fluctuations of the 1980s.

"Since then, everything has gone as the Group of Five could have wished. The dollar is being related downwards, though it is still too high against the major currencies apart from sterling," says Mr Flight.

He feels that the yen and the Deutschmark must appreciate against the dollar further, by between 20 and 30 per cent this year if, among other things, US exports are to become sufficiently competitive.

He thinks that sterling is potentially the most volatile major currency because of declining oil prices. Nevertheless, he is optimistic that it should hold around the \$1.40 to \$1.50 level.

He says: "I think 1986 will be

### A backing for the yen and mark

the year of the soft landing for the UK and US. They'll sort out their deficit and I think the oil price vulnerability won't have the impact you might think on our economy."

Mr Flight is backing the yen and the Deutschmark this year. He would advise switching into these currencies or going for a unit trust investing in these currency areas.

But he adds: "We remain keen on an investor's funds being in a basket of currencies. So many buy sterling because it is the easiest thing to do."

The view on interest rates is split between those who do not expect much of a decline and



those who think a gentle dropping-off of rates is likely.

Anthony Bolton, investment director of Fidelity International, is one of the optimists.

He reckons: "They'll come down less fast than one would expect as the Government's fiscal policy now amounts to the control of interest rates."

Tony Gordon, founder partner of Bristol-based insurance brokers Redcliffe Associates, sums up the view with no frills: "Interest rates have to ease some time this year, if this Government hasn't goofed entirely."

Tim Melville-Ross, chief general manager of the Nationwide Building Society, feels an underlying confidence that rates must drop. "I'd dearly like to see them come down substantially this year, but the evidence is sadly lacking at the moment," he says on a note of caution.

"There is the oil price, and the Government's desire for low wage settlements is so strong that it looks prepared to squeeze corporate liquidity with high rates."

David Ritchie, assistant general manager at Scottish Widows, is taking a cautious line - he does not think interest

rates will fall away this year and, likewise, he feels gilts will not rise much above current levels.

Not much that happened in 1985 surprised Philip Gray, managing director of GT Management UK, except the under-performance of gilts. "Gilts were distinctive in not going to plan," he says. But he feels gilts must appreciate this year as they are very much "an investment anomaly - lagging behind equities."

While Mr Gray is pretty bullish about 1986 investment prospects worldwide, Touche Kemman's assistant investment manager, Paul Manduca, is a firm fence-sitter on the UK market. He does not foresee a swinging bear market but he does not expect more than a 30-point-plus gain on the All-Share Index. He reckons Wall Street will be the best market this year.

Japan gets a general thumbs down, though Mr Ritchie says: "We are beginning to look at Japanese technology stocks again after a poor two years."

Mr Bolton takes an original line on 1986: "We're bullish about the UK market for the first part of the year. We don't agree with the pessimists about a bear market yet. These things

always take longer to set in than we think."

His advice is to remain fully invested but to take stock after a few months into the year, as then the ifs and buts about government policy, corporate profits, even the next election, will begin to come to the fore.

Mr Gordon, in line with his bear view on interest rates, is advising clients to think gilts this year: "It's very much

depends on an individual's portfolio of course, but for short-term gain I recommend gilts. I'd suggest either investing in a gilt unit trust or an insurance fund with a gilt weighting."

Along with many other fund managers, Edinburgh-based Scottish Widows was underinvested in UK equities last year until around mid-summer. Mr Ritchie, who is involved in managing the UK's largest single pooled pension fund, worth about £1,600 million, is restrained again this year.

He says: "Some of the froth has already been taken off the market and maybe there's a bit more to go. I think it would be unlikely if we saw much of an increase in the All-Share after two good years."

"We're happy staying with the spread we've got (50 per cent in the UK) and run with the markets."

Mr Ritchie is marginally more attracted to overseas markets (20 per cent overseas), and in Europe and the United States rather than the Far East.

Mr Bolton is directing clients into the UK stock market short term, and he remains happy

about the US. His favourite market for 1986 is Europe, though he would not plump for any single market.

For the growth-orientated investor I'd put 40 per cent in the UK, 20 per cent in the US, 20 per cent into Europe and the remaining 20 per cent split between Japan and the Far East," he says.

Mr Gray is the biggest all-round bull of our straw poll. In fact, he thinks 1986 looks so good for UK, US and European equities that he's a trifle worried.

He says: "All the signs point to another vintage year. The mood is still pro-business, deflationary, and the tax climate is now favourable to equities, and I don't just mean in the US and the UK. Have you seen how well the Indian stock market did in 1985 thanks to tax cuts?"

Mr Manduca's aphorism for 1986 is "don't be afraid to take profits".

Mr Gordon counsels: "With the phasing-out of Serps, I think 1986 is the year when retirement planning needs a lot of thought and expert advice. It was never less appropriate just to contact your nearest insurance salesman."

Mr Melville-Ross, wearing his building society hat square on his head, says he looks on 1986 as the preparation for the Building Society Bill becoming law in 1987, which will give building societies much wider scope in investment.

He also predicts that the arrival of the Matrix automated telling machines this year (put together by several building societies) will make building societies that much more useful for consumers.

Hilatre Gomer

# Keep cash ready for the big deals

The first few weeks of 1986 are as good a time as any for reviewing your finances, and the new year brings a number of changes which are important to investors.

With several new privatisations in the pipeline for 1986 - British Gas, British Airways, Royal Ordnance and possibly the Trustee Savings Bank - your first requirement is to keep cash ready.

That means a building society or high-interest cheque account, as many plastic cards as you can service, or, failing all these, the ability to draw on a negotiated overdraft.

Argue for the best deal you can get. This might even include approaching a bank manager who has gone to a new branch and with whom you were on better terms than you appear to be with your present one.

After ensuring the availability of cash for "bargains", which could include new issues, analyse your objectives in the light of current tax legislation. There are four important changes which come into effect in 1986.

● First comes the full abolition of bond washing for portfolios with a nominal (or face) value of more than £5,000 from February 28. If your gilt or fixed interest stocks do not exceed this amount, any gains you make on sale or maturity after that date will still be classed as capital gain and not subject to the accrued (taxable) income rules.

● Second, if you have local authority bonds in your portfolio and are a basic rate taxpayer, your interest payments on the bonds rise from April 1986.

From that date, interest will be paid, like building society interest, after composite rate tax has been deducted at 25 per cent. Also, as with building societies, any tax paid cannot be reclaimed, so non-taxpayers should no longer invest in local authority bonds, but go for National Savings in its various forms - NSB Investment Account, Income and Deposit Bonds, and gilts through the National Savings Stock Register.

These all pay interest or dividends gross, without deduction of basic rate tax. Alternatively, you can put your money offshore in the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man. All the high street banks have Channel

Islands or offshore subsidiaries offering high interest or money market accounts.

● A third change beginning in 1986 is that all building societies must make returns to the Inland Revenue of the net interest paid or credited to savers where that amount exceeds £2,000 annually (£400 at the high street banks). This limit applies only to 1986-87 and may be altered thereafter.

The idea is for easier computation of the composite tax. ● The fourth change applies to gilts, and qualifying corporate bonds. From July 2, disposal of all such securities will be entirely free of capital gains tax up to the annual (£5,900) and will no longer have to be held for more than a year to qualify for this exemption.

Qualifying corporate bonds are defined in Section 64 of the 1984 Finance Act, which refers to Section 82 (3) (b) and

### Have a fallback in case of emergency

"Includes any loan stock or similar security whether of the United Kingdom or of any other Government or of any public or local authority in the United Kingdom or elsewhere, or of any company whether secured or unsecured."

Examples are Birmingham 11.5 per cent 2012 (local authority stock), BAT 12.5 per cent 2003-08 (corporate loan stock), New Zealand 11.5 per cent 2014 (quoted "bulldog").

They are bought through stockbrokers with the commission charged on corporation stock as debentures (0.9 per cent on the first £5,000, 0.45 per cent on the next £4,500) but payable on settlement day while local authority stock (charged as short gilts 0.8 per cent on the first £2,500, 0.125 per cent on the next £15,000) is payable as a cash transaction.

With these four changes in mind, the investment strategy for 1986 would appear to be as follows: the introduction of a gilt or fixed interest element into your portfolio to get any tax-free capital gain there may be around; always to have a fallback of cash, not only for the odd emergency, but for new issues and other "bargains"; and, as the last refuge for the non-taxpayers, to take up one of the National Savings offerings.

Jennie Hawthorne

## EXTRA UNITS UP TO 5th APRIL

# The only 3 Unit Trusts most investors should ever need

With over eight hundred unit trusts available and more being launched each month, how do you know which to choose? In reality there are only three basic types of unit trust, and M&G has an outstandingly successful example of each: Recovery Fund for capital growth, Dividend Fund for income, and SECOND General for a balance between income and growth.

You should remember that new funds or funds which suffer a change of management are likely to be more of a gamble than those which can point to a long and successful record. M&G's investment team has remained largely unchanged for many years, and our long-term performance record reflects this. Past performance cannot be a guarantee for the future, but it is usually the best measure you have of a fund's likelihood of achieving its objective.

We are offering an extra 1% unit allocation if you invest £1,000 or more and 2% if you invest £10,000 or more per Fund.

The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up. This means that unit trusts are a long-term investment and not suitable for money you may need at short notice.

### Growth RECOVERY FUND

M&G Recovery Fund is probably the most successful unit trust ever launched and the table below shows just how well it has achieved its aim of capital growth. The Fund buys the shares of companies which have fallen on hard times. Losses must be expected when a company fails to recover but the effect of a turnaround can be dramatic.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G RECOVERY	FT. ORDINARY INDEX	RETAIL PRICE INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
23 May '69	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
1970	11,760	8,570	11,020	11,058
1975	26,400	11,121	21,283	16,178
1980	102,560	17,287	40,175	25,521
1985	270,800	49,474	55,248	40,168

NOTES All figures include reinvested income net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on an extra interest account offering 12% above the average yearly rate (source: Building Societies Association). M&G Recovery figures are all realisation values.

FURTHER INFORMATION On 1st January 1986 offered prices and estimated gross current yields were:

	Income	Accumulation	Yield
Recovery Fund	279.9p	358.8p	3.75%
Dividend Fund	345.4p	997.9p	5.54%
SECOND General	598.4p	1167.4p	3.99%

Prices and yields appear daily in the Financial Times. The difference between the "offered" price (at which you buy units) and the "bid" price (at which you sell) is normally 5%. An initial charge of 5% is included in the offered price and an annual charge of up to 1% of each Fund's value - currently 1% - plus VAT is deducted from gross income. Income for Accumulation units is reinvested to increase their value and for Income units it is distributed net of basic rate tax on the following dates:

	Recovery	Dividend	SECOND
Distributions	20 Feb	15 Jan	15 Feb
	20 Aug	15 July	15 Aug
Next distribution for new investors	20 Aug 1986	15 July 1986	15 Aug 1986

You can buy or sell units on any business day. Contracts for purchase or sale will be due for settlement two to three weeks later. Remuneration is payable to accredited agents; rates are available on request. The trustees for Dividend and Recovery are Barclays Bank Trust Co. Limited and for SECOND is Lloyds Bank Plc. The Funds are all wider range investments and are authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

M&G Securities Limited, Three Quays, Tower Hill, London EC3R 6BQ. Tel: 01-626 4583.

Member of the Unit Trust Association.

### Income DIVIDEND FUND

If you need income which will grow over the years M&G Dividend Fund could be your ideal investment. The Fund invests in a wide range of ordinary shares and aims to provide above average and increasing income and a yield about 50% higher than the FT. Actuaries All-Share Index.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY	M&G CAPITAL	BUILDING SOCIETY
6 May '64	—	—	£10,000	£10,000
1965	£396	£536	10,200	10,000
1970	463	650	10,750	10,000
1975	828	871	16,300	10,000
1980	1,660	1,200	24,280	10,000
1985	2,278	908	65,160	10,000

NOTES All income figures shown are net of basic rate tax. The Building Society income figures are 10% above the average of the rates offered in each year (source: Building Societies Association). M&G Dividend capital figures are all realisation values. \*Estimated.

### Balanced SECOND GENERAL

M&G SECOND General Trust Fund aims for consistent growth of both capital and income and has a 29-year performance record which is second to none. It has a wide spread of shares mainly in British companies.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G SECOND	FT. ORDINARY INDEX	RETAIL PRICE INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
5 June '56	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
1960	19,520	20,080	11,293	12,483
1965	31,320	26,230	13,492	16,093
1970	46,480	30,540	17,143	21,636
1975	79,840	39,620	33,107	31,651
1980	195,400	61,600	62,494	49,931
1985	546,000	176,240	85,941	78,588

NOTES All figures include reinvested income net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on an extra interest account offering 8% above the average yearly rate (source: Building Societies Association). M&G SECOND General figures are all realisation values.

### SPECIAL OFFER CLOSES 5th APRIL

All applications received by 5th April 1985 will be given an extra 1% allocation of units. This will increase to 2% for applications of £10,000 or more per Fund.

To: M&G SECURITIES LIMITED, THREE QUAYS, TOWER HILL, LONDON EC3R 6BQ. Please invest the sum(s) indicated below in the Fund(s) of your choice (minimum investment in each Fund: £1,000) in ACCUMULATION/INCOME units (delete as applicable) or Accumulation units will be issued for Recovery and SECOND and Income units will be issued for Dividend) at the price ruling on receipt of this application. DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY.

A contract note will be sent to you stating your exact holdings and the settlement date. Your certificate will follow shortly.

RECOVERY (min. £1,000)	£	00
DIVIDEND (min. £1,000)	£	00
SECOND (min. £1,000)	£	00

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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THE M&G GROUP



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## FAMILY MONEY/2

## Protection package that eases the cost of family travelling

A "roving" holiday insurance policy was launched this week, and is available for practically any holiday you book. It is called The Travel Protection Plan 1986, and it provides more or less standard levels of cover.

We compared it to the policy recommended by the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) which is called Supersure Plus. ABTA's policy generally works out cheaper for adults, but the 50 per cent reduction in premiums for children under 16 offered by the Travel Protection Plan 1986 means that families should generally get cheaper cover with the new policy.

TPP provides adequate medical expense cover of up to £500,000, but in common with almost all package insurance policies the baggage and personal effects cover is limited. With TPP you get overall cover of £800 and a single item limit of £200 (Supersure Plus provides cover of £750 and £250, respectively). But do watch out for the fact that the small print lists a whole host of items — such as jewellery, watches, cameras, for example, where the maximum payout for loss or damage to all of these items collectively is limited to £200.

If you are taking valuable items away with you check to see that they are adequately covered — generally either through individual insurance or the all-risk section of your household policy. Holiday package policies alone are inadequate.

The Travel Protection Plan 1986 is available through some, but not all, travel agents and direct from the brokers Crispin Speers and Partners, 41 Crutched Place, London EC3 (tel: 01-480 5083).

## Glittering trio from the Britannia

■ Britannia Building Society has announced changes in some of its higher interest earning accounts. The old 7-day and 60-day notice accounts and the 1-year term share account will close on January 11. They are to be replaced on January 15 by three instant access Gold accounts offering slightly better interest for higher minimum investments.

The best of the three will be Trident Super Gold, offering a net rate of 9.8 per cent on a minimum balance of £10,000. The best rate offered from the accounts being closed was 9.5 per cent. However, the minimum balance required was only £500.

Investors with only £250 to £500 will not benefit from the change — the new Trident Gold account will offer them the same 9.25 per cent as holders of the 7-day account enjoy. But if you have a large investment in

MAY I REMIND YOU, PORTHURST, DOBBLEDECK IS NOT A ROMANTIC GOLF LANGUAGE...



We recently praised the Halifax for producing some information leaflets in minority group languages. Bradford and Bingley Building Society has reminded us that it has been producing one in a number of Asian languages since June 1984, and the list of languages available includes Welsh.

any of these accounts you should consider moving to Super Gold — funds are not transferred automatically in cases like this.

## The name's bond...

■ Fixed income at a time of little or no inflation has its charms for those dependent on income from investments to pay the bills. And although building societies are offering between 8 and 10 per cent net of income tax on extra interest accounts, this could come down at any time. Guaranteed income bonds could be the answer and financial adviser Chase de Vere has one. And although building societies are offering between 8 and 10 per cent net of income tax on extra interest accounts, this could come down at any time. Guaranteed income bonds could be the answer and financial adviser Chase de Vere has one. And although building societies are offering between 8 and 10 per cent net of income tax on extra interest accounts, this could come down at any time. Guaranteed income bonds could be the answer and financial adviser Chase de Vere has one.

## Hot for holiday cash

■ Times are certainly changing. Years ago we used to save regularly in a building society account to raise money for holidays. But the competition for our money is hotting up, and while Thomas Cook and Luxa Poly have been running holiday credit arrangements for some time the latest scheme from the Ileskon Consumer Co-operative Society looks a tad busy.

Your borrowing limit with the Ileskon is a multiple of ten times the amount you choose to repay each month, but the

Interest rate of 2.25 per cent per month works out to an APR of 30.6 per cent — higher than Access or Visa and on a par with some of the "in house" credit cards.

## Healthy bonus rate

■ A healthy increase in terminal bonus rates was announced this week by the General Accident Life Assurance. The new rate is 15 per cent up, at 70 per cent of attaching bonuses for post-1981 life policies, compared with 55 per cent announced by the company at the end of last year. Pension policy rates are increased from 40 per cent to 50 per cent for the same period, while increases of up to 53 per cent were seen on some pre-1982 life policies.

Norman Graham, general manager of General Accident Life, says "The investment performance" enables the company to "declare the increased bonuses combined with 'the exceptional strength of our reserves'".

## BES at a glance

■ The BES Magazine in its January issue includes some useful pages on certain details and ramblings of the relevant BES legislation. Editor John Harrison says he hopes "this will stimulate further evaluation of the merits and also certain shortcomings which still make the BES less effective than it deserves to be".

If you want to take out a subscription to the magazine it will cost you £48 a year for 12 issues. It has the merit of providing detailed summaries of a broad range of BES issues. However, the magazine judges on the issues to date, rarely contains direct criticism of particular BES issues where it is merited. If you want to see directly which BES issues you should avoid, details from the publishers, Private Investor Publications, 1-3 Berry Street, London EC1V 0AA (Tel: 01-808 1036).

## Aitken's new banner

■ For Aitken Hume read Sentinel. This is the message for those unit trusts and other funds managed under the banner of Aitken Hume Funds Management. These in future will bear the name Sentinel, reflecting the acquisition of the Sentinel Insurance Company in November 1985 by Aitken Hume.

Two of the unit trusts in this stable are broadening out "to make these funds less speculative" — the American Technology and the Japanese Technology trusts are being given a "and General" suffix to reflect the wider outlook that the trusts will take.

A 1 per cent discount on all the unit trusts is offered "to mark the occasion of the name change". Potential investors should bear in mind, however, that none of the Aitken Hume unit trusts reached the top ten of any sector, according to the one year figures we published last week.

## The consumers' banker

■ If you have a complaint against a bank which you cannot resolve, even at head office level, then the Banking Ombudsman, Sir Edwards-Jones QC, may be the man for you. The Office of the Banking Ombudsman became operational this week and will investigate complaints from individuals concerning the provision of personal banking services by a number of banks.

Bear in mind that it is really only fresh complaints — those arising on or after January 1, 1986 — that the Banking Ombudsman will consider, and you must have tried your complaint at the bank's head office before turning to the Ombudsman.

Details, including advice on whether you fall within the scheme, from The Office of the Banking Ombudsman, Citadel House, 5/11 Fetter Lane, London, EC4A 1BR.



Edwards-Jones: Advice you can bank on

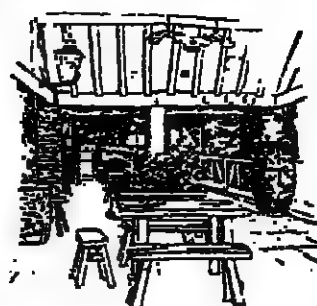
## Cannon takes aim

■ A new participant in the mortgage market has emerged in the form of Cannon Assurance, which is offering mortgages of between £15,000 to £130,000 at 12.75 per cent (APR 13.6 per cent). No differentials or arrangement fees, and loans will be up to 95 per cent of the property's valuation in certain cases. The new mortgage business is being carried out by CL Mortgage and further details are available from CL at 1 Olympic Way, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 0NB.

## Winners poste haste

■ Now that the closing date for entries to the £500 Times-1986 Samuel Young Financial Writer of the Year Competition has passed, our judges can get down to the serious task of reading and evaluating your entries. Incidentally, as a concession to the vagaries of the Christmas post we have decided to accept receipt of entries bearing a Post Office frank dated on or before December 31. The date of publication of the winning entries will be announced shortly.

## Hoskins Brewery PLC



## Offer for subscription under the Business Expansion Scheme

Sponsored by Oceana Asset Management Ltd.

## Tax relief available for 1985/6

Closing date of 10 January 1986

Should you have any questions or REQUIRE FURTHER COPIES OF THE PROSPECTUS FOR HOSKINS BREWERY PLC please contact John Corrigan on 01-588 7262 or Richard Ellert on 098 683 321

This advertisement is issued in compliance with the Regulations of The Stock Exchange.

## Nationwide Building Society

(Incorporated in England under the Building Societies Act 1874)

## Placing of £20,000,000 12 per cent Bonds due 12th January 1987

Listing for the bonds has been granted by the Council of The Stock Exchange. Listing Particulars in relation to The Nationwide Building Society are available in the Extel Statistical Services. Copies may be collected from Companies Announcements Office, P.O. Box No. 119, The Stock Exchange, London EC2P 2BT until 7th January 1986 and until 20th January 1986 from:-

Fulton Packshaw Ltd.,  
34-40 Ludgate Hill,  
London EC4M 7JT

Laurie, Milbank & Co.,  
Portland House,  
72/73 Basinghall Street,  
London EC2V 5DP

Rowe & Pitman,  
1 Finsbury Avenue,  
London EC2M 2PA

4th January 1986

## Trusts with tax pitfalls

From M. A. Truman, The Crossways, Heston, Hounslow, Middlesex

I have followed with interest the various references to inheritance trust CTT schemes in recent issues of Family Money, since as a tax adviser I have grown increasingly worried about the number of clients who are sold these schemes when they may be completely inappropriate to their circumstances.

As an experiment, I asked half a dozen organisations purporting to offer CTT planning advice at the recent Money Exhibition what they would suggest for a widow who had inherited a substantial portfolio of blue-chip shares in the mid-1960s and had held on to them ever since.

Almost without exception these advisers, including very well-known merchant banks and life assurance companies, suggested an inheritance trust — the discounted gift scheme, whereas in fact the Capital Gains Tax payable on such a portfolio going into such a scheme would, of course, have been far more than the CTT saved.

It is also worrying how many people believe these schemes to be "free", compared with professional advisers who charge for their services. However, as your article on December 7 pointed out, the actual value of the units allocated to the scheme is generally some 5 per cent less than the cash invested — how else could the companies pay the commissions they do?

The cost of setting up an appropriate discretionary trust, tailored to a client's own circumstances, and giving rise to a Capital Gains Tax charge, and with no risk of Revenue challenge, is likely to be less than £40,000 and if the transfer is much less it is probably cheaper to simply make use of annual exemptions and gift the cash or shares outright.

My understanding of the Revenue's position is that they are, in a rather lenient manner, taking some of the earlier and least acceptable of the schemes to the Special Commissioners, and then probably on to court.

The danger is that, in giving judgment on the more dubious schemes, the courts will make pronouncements that also affect the schemes still being marketed.

Estates which have already been agreed are unlikely to be reopened, but the estates of those who die after any such judicial pronouncement will be decided in accordance with it, even though the scheme may have been effected several years ago.

Anyone who thinks that the Revenue would not be so unfair should talk to the unfortunate purchasers of Capital Gains Tax schemes in the mid-1970s, who now find that after the Ramsey and Furness decisions their capital losses are not worth the paper they were manufactured on, and all they have left is the hole in their bank account made by the very substantial fees that the scheme's promoters charged them.

## BUSINESS EXPANSION SCHEME

## Your fifth opportunity to invest with the leader

Lazard Brothers have launched their Fifth Development Capital Fund — the final fund in the 85/86 tax year — to enable investors to take advantage of further investment opportunities.

The Fund's investment policy and the tax concessions of the BES together provide an outstanding investment opportunity for higher rate tax payers.

Three of the four previous Lazard

Development Capital Funds have been oversubscribed and if you intend to invest in the Fifth BES Fund during this tax year you should act without delay to avoid disappointment.

Total funds raised by Lazard Brothers under the BES now exceed £14 million — the largest amount by any manager of Approved BES Funds — and investments have been made in 30 companies.

## THE ADVANTAGES OF INVESTING IN THE LAZARD DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL FUNDS ARE:

1. The continuing flow of high quality investment proposals received by the managers
2. The ability of the managers to select investments considered to possess both growth potential and security
3. The commercial experience of the managers
4. The managers' involvement in monitoring companies which is designed to reduce the risk of losses
5. The well balanced spread of investments
6. Long-term plans for realisation of investments

OFFER CLOSES LATEST JANUARY 15

The minimum subscription level has now been exceeded. The application list may be closed at any time, up to and including 15 January 1986, at the managers' discretion.

## Lazard Brothers &amp; Co., Limited

For a copy of the memorandum, on the basis of which alone applications can be made, please telephone Jane Lamont on 01-588 2721 or send this coupon to 21 Moorfields, London EC2P 2HT

Investment in unquoted companies carries higher risks as well as the chance of higher rewards.

The minimum subscription is £2,000 and the maximum subscription is £40,000.

To: Jane Lamont, Lazard Brothers & Co., Limited, 21 Moorfields, London EC2P 2HT

Please send me a Memorandum on The Fifth Lazard Development Capital Fund

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_



Finding an international growth trust that promises you the earth isn't difficult.

Finding one that delivers, is.

Successful international investment isn't as simple as some people seem to think. It demands more than just good intentions and impressive promises — it calls for on-the-spot contacts in the world's most important financial centres, round-the-clock market information and the ability to recognise and grasp the best opportunities as they arise.

It calls for the breadth of international contacts and the depth of worldwide resources that the new Global Growth Trust from Scimitar offers.

There's nothing dramatically different about the aim of the trust: to achieve high and increasing capital growth by investing in a carefully-selected portfolio of top-performing international stocks and shares.

So what makes it so special? Scimitar does.

As the new investment management division of The Standard Chartered Group, Scimitar is backed by the experience and expertise of one of the largest, most successful and broad-based financial institutions in the world — with

access to a global network of resources other unit trust managers dream about.

Scimitar has also managed to attract some of the most talented and respected professionals in the business to its fund management team — and the result is an opportunity that no serious investor can afford to ignore.

In a unit trust the price of units can go down as well as up. But with Scimitar's contacts, experience and outlook behind you, investing in the Scimitar Global Growth Trust could prove to be one of the most profitable moves you've ever made.

Sharpen up your investment prospects today — complete and return the coupon now.

## General Information

Contract notes will be issued by return. Certificates will be issued approximately 4 weeks later. After 17th January 1986 the daily prices and yield will be published in leading national newspapers. Managers: Scimitar Asset Management Limited.

Charges: An initial charge of 5% is included in the Offer Price of the units, thereafter 1% per annum (+ VAT) of the Fund's value, will be deducted from the Trust's income. The Trust deed allows for a maximum charge of 2% per annum; the managers will give unit holders at least three months' written notice of any change. Selling Units: Units may be sold back on any business day at the bid price ruling on receipt of instructions. A cheque for payment will normally be sent within 7 days of receipt of a redeemed certificate. Cashier: The Royal Bank of Scotland plc. Charges: An initial charge of 5% is included in the Offer Price of the units, thereafter 1% per annum (+ VAT) of the Fund's value, will be deducted from the Trust's income. The Trust deed allows for a maximum charge of 2% per annum; the managers will give unit holders at least three months' written notice of any change. Selling Units: Units may be sold back on any business day at the bid price ruling on receipt of instructions. A cheque for payment will normally be sent within 7 days of receipt of a redeemed certificate. Cashier: The Royal Bank of Scotland plc. Charges: An initial charge of 5% is included in the Offer Price of the units, thereafter 1% per annum (+ VAT) of the Fund's value, will be deducted from the Trust's income. The Trust deed allows for a maximum charge of 2% per annum; the managers will give unit holders at least three months' written notice of any change. Selling Units: Units may be sold back on any business day at the bid price ruling on receipt of instructions. A cheque for payment will normally be sent within 7 days of receipt of a redeemed certificate. Cashier: The Royal Bank of Scotland plc.

## LAUNCH DISCOUNT

If we wish to invest £2,000 (minimum investment £500) in the Scimitar Global Growth Trust, income/accumulation units\* at the launch price of 25p per unit, which will include a bonus of 1% extra units for the launch period, which runs from 28th December 1985 until 17th January 1986. Please make cheques payable to: Scimitar Asset Management Limited.

Post to: Scimitar Asset Management Limited, FREEPOST, London EC3B 3AD. Telephone: 01-623 5776/5763. The offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland. Details of all applicants. (BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE)

Surname: Mr/Mrs/Miss \_\_\_\_\_

First names: (in full) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: (in full) \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_

I am/We are over 18.

In the case of joint applicants, all must sign and attach names and addresses separately.

For details of the Scimitar Share Exchange Scheme, please tick ☐

\*Delete as appropriate. Holders of income units will receive twice yearly payments. Holders of accumulation units will have their income reinvested (if no unit preference is indicated, accumulation units will automatically be issued).

## SCIMITAR HAS THE EDGE

Scimitar Asset Management Limited

Standard Chartered



[illegible]

## UNIT LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

[illegible]



# How to uncork a bargain



FAMILY MONEY/4

# Quick cash? Not the BES way

## BUSINESS EXPANSION

Anyone interested in underwriting Business Expansion Scheme issues should note that a call on the underwriters has recently been made for one BES scheme. Chelsea Restaurants, which was seeking a minimum of £800,000 from investors (maximum £2.5 million) managed to raise only £350,000. The issue was underwritten and therefore the underwriters have been called to make up the deficit, which they have done.

Chelsea Restaurants was sponsored by Johnson Fry and is the first of the underwritten BES issues to be called to make up the deficit, which they have done. Johnson Fry highlights two reasons for the failure of Chelsea Restaurants to reach its minimum subscription level. First, investors are holding back their BES investment capacity, preferring at this stage to aim for underwriting fees, and making their BES investment closer to the end of the tax year.

Second, press comment on the likelihood of the Inland Revenue threatening the BES status of asset-backed schemes generally, has, according to Johnson Fry, put many investors off. Chelsea Restaurants, in common with all Johnson Fry BES schemes, had a substantial element of asset-backing.

In fact the Inland Revenue is not scrutinizing asset-backed

schemes generally; certain types are being examined by the Revenue, as potentially containing provisions in the way they are operating (or intend to operate, that would take them outside the ambit of the BES.

The Chelsea Restaurants experience illustrates that BES underwriting is not simply a passport to a quick cash hand-out.

Ardenote plc is looking for up to £450,000 to finance improvements to the Ardenote Country Club, located in Warwickshire. Although the executive directors have invested £100,000 of their own money, they do not appear from the prospectus to have much relevant experience. Moreover, the sponsors have taken an option over 50,000 shares at the 50p price only (outside investors pay 75p now) up to June 30, 1991.

The company has outstanding secured loan facilities of £339,807, precious little information is given on the past trading record of the club and the issue expenses are fairly high.

Meanwhile, the accompanying table shows those BES opportunities still open to investors. Bear in mind that as the end of the tax year approaches there is likely to be a rush of new BES issues aimed at affording investors a final opportunity to qualify for this year's BES tax relief.

Lawrence Lever

### SOME BES SCHEMES STILL AVAILABLE TO INVESTORS

Company/Fund name	Sponsor	Minimum Investment	Closing date
Riverside Racquet Centre	LET Fin. Servs. 01-581 1322	£500	January 9, 1986
Hoskins Brewery PLC	Ocean Asset Mgt 01-588 7262	£200	January 10, 1986
City Fine Wine PLC	01-588 3547	£1,500	January 14, 1986
The Fifth Lizard Dev. Capital Fund	Lizard Bros 01-588 2721	£2,000	January 15, 1986
The Cambridge Capital Exp. Fund	Cambridge Capital 0223 512856	£2,000	January 17, 1986
Branch Retirement Homes	Wincof Ltd & Co. 01-624 6181	£250	January 21, 1986
2nd Aberdeen Business Dev. Fund	0224 631989	£2,500	January 24, 1986
Gladding Secured Contractors	Chancery Corp Serv. 01-242 2538	£500	January 31, 1986
City Fine Art	Minister Trust 01-622 1020	£1,000	January 31, 1986
Chelsea Restaurants PLC	Johnson Fry 01-499 5068	£3,000	January 31, 1986
Coastal Resort Hotels	First Ind. Corp 01-531 2355	£5,000	January 31, 1986
Practical Investor Magazine	Tapel Investments 01-505 0073	£250	February 9, 1986
Aspeped Group PLC	01-235 5843	£250	February 17, 1986
The Capital Inn Fund	Capital Ventures 0242 564800	£2,500	March 31, 1986
The Cave Fund	0242 564800	£2,500	March 31, 1986
Ardenote PLC (Country Club)	Methercourt Securities 01-531 0031	£750	April 4, 1986
Thames Valley BEF	Burlington Inc 0481 578958	£3,000	April 5, 1986
Fryer McKendrick PLC	Stock Beach & Co. 01-538 8471	£1,000	April 5, 1986
The Guildhouse Expansion Sch.	01-605 6321	£2,000	Open Ended
Minister Hotel Fund	01-622 1050	£2,000	Open Ended
Merchandise Venture Capital	021-233 3404	£2,500	Open Ended
East Merle Venture Capital	0532 29185	£2,500	Open Ended
Western Venture Capital	0272 755880	£2,500	Open Ended
South Western Venture Capital	0603 862271	£2,500	Open Ended
Johnson Fry BES	01-499 5068	£1,000	Open Ended
Charterway BES	01-588 3541	£3,000	Open Ended

Research: Sue Proud, The Times

\*Closing dates may be extended

## A firmer footing for the early leavers

### PENSIONS

New provisions aimed at improving the pension rights of early leavers are contained in the Social Security Act 1985, which came into force this week.

Under the Act, employees who have accumulated only five years pensionable service

in order to qualify for a preserved pension. The previous additional requirement, that they must also have reached the age of 26, will no longer apply.

Moreover, for certain employees leaving employment after January 1, 1986, there will be a statutory requirement on employers to increase the value of their preserved pension.

This requirement will apply only to the pension benefits that an employee has accumulated since January 1, 1983. In the case of contracted-out pension schemes, the revaluation of

pension benefits will only apply to the balance over and above the guaranteed minimum pension (GMP).

For final pay pension schemes the relevant preserved pension must be increased by at least 5 per cent per annum or the level of increase in the retail prices index, whichever works out lower. The GMP element will continue to be increased by the fixed rate of 8.5 per cent per year, under the provisions of the Social Security Pensions Act 1975.

The new law applies also to money purchase pension schemes. These cannot be contracted out of the state earnings related scheme (SERPS).

The new law provides that the treatment of any preserved pension in a money purchase scheme must be the same as that applicable to pensions remaining within the scheme.

In other words there must be no discrimination, in terms of matters such as interest and bonus payments, between preserved pensions and existing pensions within a money purchase scheme.

Another change which came into force this week gives employees the option to transfer their accrued pension rights to a new company pension scheme or to an insurance company, to

fund a special pensions policy known as a buy-out or transfer plan, as an alternative to maintaining a preserved pension.

The calculation of transfer values must conform to guidelines issued last month by the Institute of Actuaries and the Faculty of Actuaries. Moreover, transfer values must be at least equivalent to the deferred or preserved pension.

In the case of an employee moving from a contracted-out to a non-contracted-out scheme, the GMP must, according to the new law, remain in the old scheme, with the transfer value requirements only applying to the balance of the pension benefits.

Provisions in the Social Security Act 1985 concerning the disclosure of information by trustees to pension scheme members are still under consideration. The government intends to publish regulations on this subject which are provisionally scheduled to come into effect on April 1.

For a free booklet, *How Changing Jobs Affects Your Pension*, which sets out the position of early leavers, send a large size to the Company Pensions Information Centre, 7 Old Park Lane, London W1Y 3LJ.

## Specialist fund for Yorkshire businesses

### UNIT TRUSTS

This week saw the latest offering of specialist unit trusts with the launch of the Yorkshire General Trust, which will be investing at least 75 per cent of investors' money in Yorkshire companies.

About 144 companies qualify for the "Yorkshire" label, according to the managers of the new trust, the Yorkshire General Unit Trust Ltd. These will be companies with Yorkshire headquarters or whose main activities are located in Yorkshire.

This does not mean that only local companies will come under the managers' scrutiny; others with national operations such as the Burton Group and ASDA-MFI, according to the managers, warrant the Yorkshire description.

Whether there is any value to investors in distinguishing a group of companies by the "Yorkshire" criterion is open to question. The managers consider there is a valid distinction to be made, and their introductory leaflet refers to "the Y.T. Index".

This is the York Trust's Index incorporating the 144 Yorkshire companies, which was first compiled on March 1 1985. It is published weekly in the *Yorkshire Post*. The introductory leaflet shows an overall increase of 285 per cent in the share prices of the constituent companies from October 1 1985 to now as against an FT 30 Index increase for the same period of 198 per cent.

### There are potential conflicts of interest

The managers also point out that since the compilation of the Y.T. Index it has out-performed both FTSE 100 and the FT30. You should tread carefully with such comparisons, because the "Yorkshire" connection is not one that is widely recognized.

It is also worth noting that there is always considerable scope for manipulating comparative statistical evidence by choosing the optimum starting date to determine the period over which the comparison is to be made. Though the companies in the so-called Y.T. Index show a share price increase that outstrips those of the FT 30 since October 1975, the picture changes considerably if you take a more recent view.

For instance, from January 1981 to March 1 1985, the FT 30 Index has risen by more than 80 per cent, as opposed to a rise of approximately 60 per cent in the Y.T. Index.

Other aspects of the Yorkshire General Trust worth looking out for include the fact that two of the directors of the managing company are partners in the Huddersfield firm of stockbrokers Battye Wimpenny & Dawson. Most of the share transactions involved in the management of the unit trust, at least initially, be carried out through this firm.

The board of the management company also includes three directors of "Yorkshire" companies.

All in all there are undoubtedly potential conflicts of interest, and the "Yorkshire" concept is certainly open to question.

For further information contact the Yorkshire General Trust, Woodhouse House, Woodhouse Park, Fenny Bridge, Huddersfield HD8 0JG. Tel no 0484 607250.

## The price of fame could prove costly for Bath

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

It is a sign of rugby's cyclical nature that what Leicester supplied England with seven players in 1984, with consequent disruption to their cup plans, Bath's trio of selectors sat down for five hours yesterday to plan their approach to the John Player Special Cup match with Ospreys on January 25, knowing that they will not see their leading players in matches between now and then.

England have a squad meeting tomorrow and next weekend before the meeting with Wales on January 18 and Bath, affected by injuries today, have seven players involved with the match squad. Leicester have only one, which could give body to their own hopes the back of the week.

The other home counties where into selection action during the coming week Ireland's team to play France is chosen tomorrow. Scotland (also against France) but a fortnight earlier on Wednesday and Wales, who have squad training on Monday, next Friday.

The Welsh have added Huw Richards, the Neath lock, to their squad since losing Richard Moriarty for disciplinary reasons though they have made no adjustments yet to the back despite the loss through injury of Iwan Evans (Llanelli) and the retirement from internationals of Gwyn Evans, the Maesteg utility back.

It is also a sign of the times that the new year should start with news of disciplinary action, amateurism and Australians: the Welsh Rugby Union propose to take no further action against Newport who had two players sent off against London Welsh in November. The WRU consider that the club have taken sufficient action against the two individuals today at Dover but the pitch is waterlogged and the Canterbury club have taken over the match.

paying Rugby Union after taking part in a Rugby League trial for Leeds, a fact which is not contested but was somewhat invidiously revealed to the union by way of an anonymous letter.

The union has no alternative. International Board regulations specifically prohibit players who have had trials for a non-amateur rugby organisation and Ford is only the latest of many players who have had trials, not all of whom have been discovered to have done so.

In the current climate, however, much will be made of Ford's misdemeanour, vide David Howes, the Rugby League spokesman, who said: "It's now a case for the Sports Council and the Government, because it is discrimination and a more blatant example cannot be provided. The player did not get paid and just played alongside professional sportsmen."

The regulations are, however, quite clear in this instance and it will be instructive to see how members of parliament, the Sports Council or any other interested party intends moving against the somewhat amorphous International Board, the body responsible for Rugby Union's amateur regulations.

The Australians are those from Queensland, who begin their tour to Britain and Ireland against Kent at Blackheath tomorrow. Six internationals, including Sir Clive, last season's grand-slam captain, plays against the county championship semi-finalists, five of them in the back.

The weather has forced a change of venue for the colts county final, sponsored by the National Westminster Bank. Kent were due to play Yorkshire today at Dover but the pitch is waterlogged and the Canterbury club have taken over the match.

### TODAY'S TEAM NEWS

#### Moseley v Cardiff

Moseley are unchanged from the side who lost to Gloucester on New Year's Day. Roberts, the Wales flanker, returns for Cardiff, while the back three division is the same as that which helped score 30 points against Bath on Coventry.

#### Coventry v Neath

Coventry have five absences, among them Roberts and Brain, the England forwards who are committed to international away weekends. Moseley continues at stand-off half for the second time, while the back three division is the same as that which helped score 30 points against Bath on Coventry.

#### Northampton v L. Welsh

Gary Pearce, the England prop, makes his first appearance for a month in the first half. The back three division is the same as that which helped score 30 points against Bath on Coventry.

#### Cardiff v Bath

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#### Harlequins v Wasps

Salmon, the England centre, returns to a Wasps side including Davies, Smith, Melville and Rendall. Harlequins are, however, without Lifford and Camp, both required for the Scottish trial at Murrayfield.

#### Bath v Waterloo

Bath will be without Halford, named for his first cap in England's side to play Wales in a fortnight. Guscott takes his place and may have a new partner in the back three division. Whitty comes into the back row for the injured Spurrell and Swift returns to the wing after a long absence. Bath will be without Halford, named for his first cap in England's side to play Wales in a fortnight.

#### Newport v Bridgend

John Davies, the new Wales second centre from South Glamorgan Institute, makes his debut for Bridgend who are likely to be without Howell Davies, the international lock, for the rest of the season because of a knee injury. Newport are missing Watkins, the former Wales captain, and have Allcock with a hamstring back in the front row.

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## All Scottish positions begging to be filled

By Ian McLachlan

There have been few more important games in the Scottish domestic season than the international trial at Murrayfield. Virtually every place in the national side is there for the taking. The Blues, or senior side, with an average age of nearly 25 years, can hardly be claimed to be picked for the future.

The most interesting areas of challenge will come on the wing from Baird, who must convince the selectors that his all-round footballing ability is of more value to them than is the more specialised strength of Duncan or Tulloch. The latter is still a little unsure under the high ball and could be vulnerable.

The senior halfback, Laishlagh and Rutherford, have carried Scotland through many a storm. Both will, however, find themselves under increasing pressure from Hunter, who has understated Laishlagh in the South of Scotland and Scotland camps, a decent Wylie, the stand-off half, who is the man on form. Given a fair share of possession, this pair can be fairly confident of promotion.

Among the forwards the scrum, mauling duel between Milne and the improving Sole could determine the home-head position, while in the problem area of the second row Turner and Park are the main contenders. Both have to be at their best to resist the challenges of Campbell and Campbell-Lamerton.

The final back-row mix could well be determined by their ability to protect the scrum. The only White of the four flankers on view possesses real strength in the tackle and an appetite for defensive chores. Added to this, his in-line ability to take the line is a disadvantage for some three weeks. He injured his ribs in the Edinburgh-South of Scotland match.

The other two players who withdrew from last week's games, Rutherford (groin strain) and Robertson (shoulder bruising), have reported fit. All players and replacements will be ready to take a squad get-together at Murrayfield tomorrow.

### Instonians aim for top place

By George Ace

Instonians can underwrite their claims to finish top of the Section B of the Digital Ulster Senior League by winning the re-arranged game against struggling CRYMS, still unbeaten after two away games. At Belmont this afternoon. It is the only league fixture of the day.

Instonians have maximum points from their four games, and although they have been struggling a little in the last two, they are still unbeaten. After a long absence, David Jordan, and Keith Crossan, their all-round strength should prove conclusive against an unsettled CRYMS side.

Ards, who are in the second division, are also unbeaten. They are in action again at Ravenhill, this time against Ulster Shamrocks, who will be captained by Mark McCall.

And the Ulster boys are fully confident of a victory over their two international opponents, who have only been beaten once - by England in 1974 - in two previous tours of these islands, and are unbeaten to date on their current tour.

Roger Anderson, of London Welsh, has been called into the Combined Provinces team to meet Ireland in the final Irish trial at Lansdowne Road, Monday. Anderson replaces Jim Croft (University College Cork) on the left wing, as Croft is ruled out by a leg injury.

## Mallalieu tips balance

By Michael Stevenson

### Cheshire 18-Group

Durham 18-Group

The final brilliance of the Cheshire and England 18-Group came off in the final of the 18-Group, a hard-fought match yesterday at Sale, where Cheshire won, not too convincingly, by a goal and two tries to two tries and a penalty.

One glorious side-stepping run by Mallalieu made their first try. Durham line, then Nickle was successful with Durham's fourth penalty claim. The final score was Cheshire 18-15 Durham.

Mallalieu's fireworks made a try for Neil just before the interval, and Mallalieu converted.

Cheshire led after only 10 minutes, when Dehinton crashed over from a lineout near the goal.

### CROSS-COUNTRY

#### Cameras will be absent again in Milk event

By Pat Butcher

Of the three main domestic cross-country races outside of championships in Britain, last year's Milk International at Mallalieu, near Belfast, was by far the most exciting, with Tim Hutchings only out-sprinting Nat Muir and Jerry Kiernan in the last 200 metres of eight kilometres.

Yet it was the only one of the three races, the others being the Gateshead and IAC internationals which were not televised. With another decent field for the 10th anniversary race, television is again conspicuously absent. Last year, it was the BBC who declined their contract price for the year, the gap in independent television's armoury is manifested, that of having to rely on regional companies. For this year, only one outside broadcaster, and it is already committed elsewhere.

The organizers are philosophically plugging away at providing a top field, although they were stretched this year to lure anyone as impressive as Steve Ovett or John Treacy, previous winners. Hutchings has had a serious loss of form since this race last year and will not run.

But Muir, a Scotsman, second last year and winner in 1980 will provide some serious opposition to Steve Lewis, the current leading Englishman, who was fortunate to be given equal first with Alberto Tomba, Olympic 10,000 metres champion in the IAC race two weeks ago.

But Lewis won the Gateshead race in mid-November easily enough against Muir. And the most likely contender for victory is Vincent Rousseau, of Belgium, who has had impressive victories on the continent recently and could take the title abroad for the first time.

Betty van Steenbroek should certainly take the women's title back to Belgium after her impressive victory in Gateshead. And two officials from the IAAF cross-country and road running committee will be on hand to report back on Northern Ireland's application to hold the world cross-country championships there for the first time since 1956.

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## FOOTBALL

# Many happy returns for Mills as old guard and television reappear

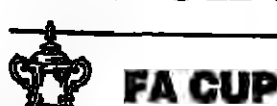
By Clive White

Television cameras bring football back into focus for millions of followers this weekend after an absence lasting eight months. Viewers will find that little has changed and those who have forsaken the sport for an even longer time may find that not even the faces have changed.

Old favourites like Mills, Wile, Horton and Higgins may all be on FA Cup duty as injuries and suspensions bite into team squads as fiercely as the weather.

Mills and Horton, of course, are still playing as well as managing at Stoke City and Hull City, respectively, though their appearances are less frequent these days. But few would have expected to see Higgins and Wile still performing in 1986. Higgins' comeback is particularly interesting and remarkable.

Two years ago, while club captain at Everton, Higgins was forced to retire because of a pelvic injury. He then had to swallow back the frustration and unhappiness while he patted the back of the Everton team who, after several indiffer-



FA CUP

ent years, finally came good again - very good.

He was granted a testimonial and given an insurance payment. But his injury did respond to treatment and earlier this season Manchester United, of all clubs, chose to sign the 27-year-old defender on Central League forms which meant he was not available to play in the Football League, but for the FA Cup he was still eligible.

Higgins' impressive form for the reserves and United's numerous injuries have cleared the way for a remarkable return to senior football in today's third round tie against Rochdale at Old Trafford.

The quality of the opposition clearly did not detract from Higgins' joy at being given the chance to sample the big-time atmosphere once more. "Superlatives cannot really express my feelings," he said.

United, who are without Hogg, Moran, McGrath, Rob-

son, Gidman and Olsen for a variety of reasons, also welcome back Duxbury, the former England full back though his two-month absence because of injury seems short by comparison.

In contrast to Higgins, the return of Wile, who played 499 first division games for West Bromwich Albion across two decades, is a most reluctant one. Now manager of Peterborough United and two months short of his 39th birthday, he has been forced to dig out his boots again because of injuries to face Leeds United. Among those injured is Firm, who coincidentally has been advised to retire from the game. Perhaps he should first have a word with Higgins.

The return of Horton, Hull City's player-manager, is surely on merit - unbiased of course - and the evidence that with his services they scored a startling 4-1 victory at Barnsley on New Year's Day yet without him they crashed 5-0 at Millwall. Mills, the former Ipswich Town and England full back, may be forced to gamble on his own fitness at 37 (his birthday is today) for tomorrow's tie at home to Notts County.

## FA CUP TEAM NEWS

**Birmingham v Altrincham**  
Kennedy is Birmingham's chief doubt. Geddis's fitness is unproven. Roberts and Bremner should return. Altrincham are not naming their side but Westland, once of Birmingham, is sure to keep goal.

**Bristol R v Leicester**  
Leicester are unchanged. Goalkeeper Green, Welsh international Stevenson (after two months) and captain Jones all return for Bristol Rovers.

**Bury v Barnsley**  
Walt is set to return for Barnsley, whose form has suddenly turned sour. Cross and Ogley, both teenagers, may also play. Bury welcome back Ross but Hill is still out.

**Carlisle v QPR**  
Filly is a regular out for Rangers but James is available after two weeks. Fareley is likely to continue in midfield. Carlisle should be unchanged.

**Coventry v Watford**  
Barnes's injured thigh is giving Watford concern. Peaks may have to play for Coventry irrespective of match fitness.

**Crystal P v Luton**  
Aylott, formerly with Luton, has shaken off a thigh injury to make himself available for Palace. Finney is out with an ankle injury. Luton are unchanged.

**Frickley v Rotherham**  
Frickley and another junior are under consideration by Rotherham, who will be without Hooley, who is cup-tied, but hope Foley will have recovered from a pulled muscle.

**Gillingham v Derby**  
Gillingham, Derby's leading scorer, is recalled by Gillingham. Frickley is recalled by Gillingham as is Emerson. With the Moore brothers injured, Gillingham moves to the middle of defence and Agnew comes in at left back.

**Huddersfield v Reading**  
Reading have five players injured and two out but only White, Williams and Roberts are available. Huddersfield are unchanged.

**Hull v Plymouth**  
Horton, the Hull player-manager, includes himself in the squad. Roberts returns from suspension. Philo, Plymouth's reserve goalkeeper, takes over from the injured Coddington and Nisbet and Coughlin are replaced by Burrows and Matthews.

**Ipswich v Bradford City**  
Zandbergen returns for Ipswich after a broken toe but the team is not finalised. Bradford should be at full strength again.

**Liverpool v Norwich**  
Beglin, Wark and Lee join the Liverpool team who draw at home in midweek. Norwich field the same side for the ninth consecutive time.

**Manchester U v Rochdale**  
Higgins, who retired two years ago because of injury, will play for United. Duxbury plays his first game in two months. Turner is again preferred to Bailey. Rochdale expect Nick's ankle to mend in time.

**Middlesbrough v So'ion**  
Middlesbrough have doubts about the fitness of McAndrew, Mowbray and Palfrey. Southampton are without Case and Forrest. Cockfield and Baker deputise.

**Millwall v Wimbledon**  
Wimbledon have Kay, Sanchez, Hodges and Holloway recovering treatment, but Williams and another defender are also suspended. Millwall need the side who soundly beat Hull.

**Newcastle v Brighton**  
Brighton field the same side for the fifth successive match. Newcastle will also be unchanged.

**Nottm F v Blackburn**  
Blackburn are unchanged except at substitute where Quinn takes over from Ainsworth. Forest are also unchanged because Rice damaged an ankle in training. There is no place for Carr against his former club.

**Oldham v Orient**  
Orient are without Stiles, who is suspended. Godfrey remains at substitute. Oldham are fit to maintain his ever-present record for Oldham.

**Oldham v Tottenham**  
Chadwick may return after a lengthy absence for Tottenham. Falco has injured a shoulder. Paul Allen is in contention. Oldham's Hebbard has recovered from ill.

**Peterborough v Leeds**  
Wile, the Peterborough manager, is forced back into action because of injuries. Coughlin is injured and Firm has been advised to retire. Saggs is cup-tied. Lingham may return for Leeds. Harris is cup-tied.

**Portsmouth v Aston Villa**  
Shaw, Kerr and Glover join a Villa squad who are still without Williams and Bradley and much success. Portsmouth are unchanged.

**Sheff U v Fulham**  
Conry, the subject of transfer speculation, is recalled by Fulham. Duxbury, Carr and Elkins are doubtful. Wednesday are without Megson and Worthington. Bolton and Millers are recalled. The suspended McNaught and Wile.

**Sheff Wed v WBA**  
Albion include Owen in their squad for the first time this season. Hunt has a groin strain. Greathill and Robson are also considered.

**Shrewsbury v Chelsea**  
Shrewsbury field a patched up side with Stevens, a forward, in defence. McNally and Macleod are recalled. Chelsea may bring in Lee, Hazard and Cannoville for Wood, Murphy and McAllister, respectively.

**Sunderland v Newport**  
Elkett is unlikely to recover from a stomach upset for Sunderland and Hodgson, Gray and Wallace are all struggling with injuries. Bolton are recovered. Berry, of Newport, has recovered from injury to face his old club. Potts is doubtful. Early pitch trip.

**Walsall v Man C**  
Walsall may bring in O'Kelly to replace Elson who has a chest infection. Moulden, an 18-year-old, who has once scored 28 goals in 40 games as a schoolboy, stands by for City. Davies takes a hamstring injury.

**Wigan v Bournemouth**  
Bournemouth take a squad of 15. Langley, the midfield player, returns after suspension for Wigan with Aspinall moving to substitute. Cuddey is still injured.

**York v Wycombe**  
Hay and Mills are replaced by Wood and Halsegrave in York's team. Wycombe are unchanged. York have a team that has yet to concede a cup goal.

**TOMORROW**  
Charlton v West Ham  
Charlton make a late selection from 13 which is dependent upon the state of the pitch after Palace's game. West Ham's only doubt is O'Leary who has a jarred ankle. Parris stands by.

**Everton v Exeter**  
A shin injury meant that Bracewell, as well as Steven and Shedy, will be absent for Everton. Harper, Richardson and Wilkinson step up.

**Darlington v Wolves**  
Wolves include Alan Whitehead, signed on loan from WBA yesterday, in their squad, while Darlington have Steve Topping back after injury. Freezing weather means a pitch inspection tomorrow morning.

**Cup favourites**  
Last season's finalists, Manchester United and Everton, are joint favourites to win the FA Cup at 11-2 with William Hill, the bookmakers. Other odds: 6 Liverpool, 10 Chelsea, 11 Tottenham, 12 Arsenal, 14 Sheff Wed, West Ham, 20 Nottingham, 25 Forest, 25 Luton, Newcastle, 33 QPR, Southampton, 40 Watford, 50 bar.



Milan (AP) - Diego Maradona (above) said yesterday that his knee does not need surgery and that it should stand up to the World Cup finals in Mexico in June. The Argentine forward, who plays for Napoli in the Italian league, added: "I met Dr Ruben Oliva and others in Buenos Aires and all agreed that surgery would be useless, if not dangerous".

Maradona has long been troubled by an aching knee and club doctors and other physicians had come to loggerheads recently on whether the player needed to undergo surgery, which would threaten the player's chances of playing in the World Cup. Tomorrow, Maradona leads Napoli in a difficult away match against Como. Napoli lie second behind Juventus in the league but trail by six points. The Argentinean doubted whether his team could catch Juventus in the second half of the season and felt that they should be thinking of a place in the UEFA Cup.

## What makes New rule Hearts beat faster adds to club stress

By Hugh Taylor

Heart of Midlothian, the League leaders, are hoping that by tonight they will find themselves even more fully established at the top of the premier division. They are four points clear of their nearest rivals, Dundee United, who are still without a win in 14 games.

Celtic, none of whom can be confident of taking full points from today's matches, and Hearts are playing with such confidence and style that it would be the surprise of the season so far if they were not to beat Motherwell, who are experiencing the greatest difficulty in easing themselves off the bottom rung of the ladder.

What is true that they have gone down 2-1 at Fir Park already this season, their new blend of youth and experience since then has been too rich for all opponents and they have not lost in 14 games.

As the race for the title becomes hotter, the most fascinating match is expected to be Tannadice, where Dundee United and Celtic meet for the second time in less than a fortnight. United won narrowly the last time but Celtic's spirits have been raised by their New Year's Day victory over Rangers and a draw against the visiting Dundee.

John Chiodozie: may return for Tottenham Hotspur at Oxford after lengthy absence.

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## Gemmell takes over Rovers

Tommy Gemmell, the former Celtic and Scotland full back, has been appointed manager of Albion Rovers. He takes over from Joe Baker, the former England player, who resigned as manager last week owing to pressure of business.

It will be the first managerial venture in six years for Gemmell, who made 23 international appearances and captained the Scotland side which won the European Cup for Celtic in Lisbon in 1967. He moved from Celtic to Dundee, where he spent three years as a player, before becoming manager of the club in 1980.

Gemmell takes over as Albion Rovers prop up the second division, having collected only seven points from 19 games. He is in charge at Hampden Park today when Rovers face Queen's Park.

**Palace aid**  
Dulwich Hamlet have agreed to stage Crystal Palace's Football Combination matches at Champion Hill, as from January 7, when Palace play Fulham (2.0). Palace have been playing their reserve matches at Leatherhead's ground since early October, when Charlton Athletic moved in to share the facilities at Selhurst Park.

**Youth switch**  
Chesterfield's home third round FA Youth Cup match against Manchester United has been switched from today to Monday evening (kick-off 7.30) because the pitch is frozen.

**Belles ready**  
The women's FA stage the fourth round of their cup tomorrow. Doncaster Belles, last year's beaten finalists, will face their chances of winning the trophy if they overcome Biggleswade at home. The holders, Friends of Fulham, were surprisingly beaten by Aylesbury in the last round.

**Italians need foreigners to boost attendances**  
Milan, Italy (AP) - Attendance in the first half of the Italian League season are down 7 per cent on last year. However, tickets did not show any significant decrease as a result of increased ticket prices. According to figures released by the Italian League this week 4.44 million people have attended football matches so far this season.

Football officials blamed the drop on the "Brieyel effect" when 39 supporters died in crowd violence in Brussels last May, fewer new foreign stars and the undisputed leadership of Juventus, which deprived the title race of any thrill, for the drop in attendances.

Despite the overall decline Internazionale Milan, Napoli and Fiorentina reported a higher number of supporters during the first part of the championship. Inter, who include in their line-up the West German forward, Karl Heinz Rummenigge, improved their attendance figures by 30,000 from the previous year while their ticket sales rose by 1.1 billion lire (\$550,000).

Although winning the European and Inter-continental Cups, and their great showing in the championship, Juventus reported a drop of 30,000 supported in the first part of the season. However experts predicted a renewed interest in Italian football next season when frontiers will be reopened to foreign players. Foreign stars, such as the Argentine Diego Maradona, of Napoli, the Dane Preben Elkjaer, of Verona and Romario, of Juventus, boosted attendances in Italy last year.

## ICE HOCKEY

## Soviets win world title with time to spare

Hamilton, Canada, (AP) - The Soviet Union won the junior world championship two days before the end of the competition when they beat Canada, holders of the title on Thursday.

Canada took an early lead but the Soviet Union were increasingly dominant as the match wore on and won by 4-1 (1-1, 1-0, 2-0) margin.

The victory means the Soviets cannot be overtaken in the standings whatever the result of Canada's last match, against Czechoslovakia. Canada, however, are certain to finish runners-up.

A 17,000 crowd saw Shayne Corson put Canada ahead. Alexander Semak equalized.

Canada never gives a chance from then on and Opatnou gave the Soviets the lead barely two minutes into the second period. Khaidarov made it three six minutes into the third period and Viaznykh was on target less than two minutes later to complete the humiliation of the host country.

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## FA Cup third round

3.0 unless stated	
Birmingham City v Altrincham	
Bristol Rovers v Leicester City	
Bury v Barnsley	
Carlisle United v QPR	
Coventry City v Watford	
Crystal Palace v Luton Town	
Frickley v Rotherham United	
Gillingham v Derby County	
Grimsby Town v Arsenal	
Huddersfield Town v Reading	
Hull City v Plymouth Argyle	
Ipswich Town v Bradford City	
Liverpool v Norwich City	
Manchester United v Rochdale	
Middlesbrough v Southampton	
Millwall v Wimbledon	
Newcastle United v Brighton	
Notttingham F v Blackburn R	
Oldham Athletic v Orient	
Oxford United v Tottenham	
Portsmouth v Leeds United	
Portsmouth v Aston Villa	
Sheff Wed v Fulham	
Sheff Wed v West Bromwich	
Shrewsbury Town v Chelsea	
Sunderland v Newport County	
Walsall v Manchester City	
Wigan Athletic v Bournemouth	
York City v Wycombe	

## Third division

Blackpool v Lincoln City

## Fourth division

Halford Town v Crewe Alexandra

Manfield v Hartlepool

Port Vale v Preston North End

Southport United v Northampton

Tranmere Rovers v Swindon Town

## FOOTBALL COMBINATIONS

Ammanville v Luton

Blackpool v Lincoln City

Blackpool v Lincoln City

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## HOCKEY

## Champions look to Halliday for success indoors

By Sydney Friskin

there will be keen competition in this group for the two places which qualify for the semi-finals.

Groningen, from the other group, are hoping to be the first Dutch team to win the tournament. Their main inspiration comes from their captain, Japp Schultz, a Dutch international.

The remaining teams from this group are Murray International Metals, Firebrands of Bristol, and the Irish club, Avoca. Firebrands have replaced Team Volkswagen from Belfast, who withdrew after the death last Sunday of Frank O'Connell during a training weekend in Dublin.

Outdoors, competition in the Norwegian Union East League, the McEvans Lager South League, and the Sun Life West League will be resumed today, the Fizza Express London League having continued uninterrupted by the festive season. The team of the month award in the London League for December goes to Reading who are still unbeaten.

## WEEKEND FIXTURES

## Scottish FA Cup

## Second round

Fort William v Stirling (1.45)

Heckle R v St Johnstone (2.0)

Nairn Co v Invergowrie (2.0)

Peterhead v Arbroath (2.0)

Queen's Park v Albion (2.0)

Stamhouck v Whitehill (2.0)

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# Sunday

Julian Pettifer: presenter of *The Living Isles* (BBC 1, 5.40 pm). And Kate Dornig and Jonathan Cecil: *Alice in Wonderland* (BBC1, 5.10 pm)

## TV-am



ing Mills (BBC 1, 5.40 pm), and *Kate Winslet in Wonderland* (BBC 1, 5.10 pm)

## CHANNEL 4

- 1.00 **Irish Angle** – *Handa, James Fenton and his Uncle Michael* who work and maintain *Martin Mill* on the River Blackwater between Kells and Nisewan, one of the few mills using the traditional stone-grinding method.
- 1.30 **Royal Academy of Arts**. A documentary about the work of the Royal Academy of Arts in London, with examples of the work of past presidents including the first, Sir Joshua Reynolds.
- 2.20 **The Christmas Messenger**. A Christmas story starring Richard Chamberlain, combining animation and film sequences with the music of Christmas carols.
- 2.50 **Feller By the Name Of...** A farce, starring Fulton Mackay, *Mr Meyer and Roger Book* set in a Bombay film studios, about a paper bag seller who walks off one set on to the another, chased by a policeman.
- 3.30 **Film: The Lord of the Rings (1978)**. A feature-length animated film based on Tolkien's story, set in a mythological world. With the voices of Christopher Guard, William Squire, John Hurt and Norman Bird. Directed by Ralph Bakshi.
- 6.00 **American Football**. The featured games this week are Los Angeles Rams against the Dallas Cowboys, and the Miami Dolphins versus the Cleveland Browns.
- 7.15 **News summary and weather** followed by *Antoinette Davis Part Two*. Pinchas Zukerman and Itzhak Perlman play *Ludwig's Sonata for Two Violins No 5 and Mozart's Duo No 1 for Violin and Viola K423*.
- 8.15 **Bert A Personal Memoir**. A tribute to the late A. L. Lloyd, known to all as Bert, the founding father of the folk music revival in post-war Britain.
- 9.30 **The Mysteries: Doomsday**. The third and final play in the award-winning trilogy adapted from the medieval English Mystery plays by Tessa Harcourt, and directed by Bill Bryden for the National Theatre. The story begins 4,000 years after the Creation with Jesus descending into Hell to redeem the sinners.
- 11.40 **The Twilight Zone: A Thing About Machines**. Drama, starring Richard Hyde, about a man who believes that machines are conspiring to destroy him. Followed by *Mr Drake*. The *Stronger* starring Burgess Meredith as the

1.15	<b>The Sky at Night.</b> Patrick Moore with the latest news on the research into the sun.	By <i>The new squashers.</i> Big band swing with vocals by Sheila Southern.	World Professional Darts Championship, from the Lakeside Country Club, Camberley. Ends at 12.30.	kicked in his face only to turn the tables when he receives super human strength from a supernatural force. Starts 12.40.
1.15	<b>Midnight Theatre.</b>	12.40 <b>Night Thoughts.</b>		

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## New US offer on way for Westland

By Judith Huntley

Sikorsky and Fiat, the American and Italian companies, will on Monday make an improved offer for a stake in Westland, the ailing helicopter company, and the new offer will be recommended to shareholders by the Westland board.

Sir John Cuckney, chairman of Westland, said on the Radio 4 Today programme yesterday: "There is no doubt at the moment in the medium and long term, the shareholders and employees of the company would be better off with the United Technologies-Fiat involvement. The company would achieve much greater stability in the medium and long term and the company really needs it. It has gone through a very rough period."

Members of the Westland board and an American team from the United Technologies Corporation, Sikorsky's parent company, have been in talks since Thursday night.

It is expected that Sikorsky-Fiat will on Monday improve its position on work for Westland employees, regarded as a crucial issue in the tussle.

Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank acting for Sikorsky, said last night that the US team would stay in Britain and make itself available to shareholders once Westland had made its recommendations. Westland shareholders are due to vote on the rival bids on January 14.

Lloyds, advisers to the European consortium, is lobbying institutional shareholders to obtain a postponement of the meeting.

Robert Fleming Nominees, the merchant banking group which is Westland's biggest shareholder, is to meet Lloyds Merchant Bank on Monday to discuss delaying the vote.

The Prime Minister has written to Mr John Smith, Opposition spokesman on industry: "I do not agree that the national interest would be served by the Government acquiring a substantial holding in the Westland company. The board of directors have given their view that the company's future lies in association with a substantial international business."

From Christopher Walker  
Moscow

Invoking the spirit of Geneva, leading figures in the Soviet arts yesterday joined senior Kremlin officials in demanding an end to the "crude and distorted" image of the Soviet Union and its citizens which, they claimed, was being presented in a wave of anti-Communist films sweeping the US box office.

Speaking at a press conference called by the Foreign Ministry to mark the reopening of US-Soviet cultural exchanges after a gap of six years, Mr Georgy Ivanov, the Deputy Cultural Minister, said that it was hard to reconcile this wave of anti-Soviet feeling with the improved climate demonstrated by the exchange of New Year messages between Mr Gorbachev and President Reagan.

The maverick Soviet poet, Yevgeny Yevtushenko, who has recently found favour with Moscow cultural establishment, coined the English word "warnography" to describe the type of film criticized by the panel, which also included a leading composer, film-maker and choreographer.

Mr Ivanov singled out *Rambo*, a film about an anti-Communist war veteran who goes back to Vietnam, *Rocky IV*, about an American boxer defeating a villainous Soviet opponent, and *America*, a 16-hour television series which he said was being filmed in America, depicting the country devastated by Soviet military occupation.

"People in America are being brought up to believe that 'Reds' and Russians can only be talked to with the language of force," the Deputy Minister said. "A new generation of Americans is being brought up to consider killing as something natural, or even necessary."

He cited two recent US opinion polls to support the plea from Moscow for a change in attitudes. One showed ordinary Americans picking three words, "aggressive", "insensitive" and "portentous" when asked to describe Russians.

The other, said to have been published in *The New York Times*, showed that 44 per cent of those questioned did not know that the United States and the Soviet Union were allies during the Second World War.

Mr Ivanov alleged that the anti-Soviet campaign in the United States had invented a

new type of screen hero, an ideologically-motivated professional killer. "This new hero kills 'reds' and Russians not for money, but with a kind of perverse relish", he told the televised news conference.

Mr Stanislav Kostyuk, a leading Soviet film director, claimed that the Soviet film industry would not retaliate with the production of a similar-style of film, which would "create hatred" for the American people. Films like *Rambo*, he added, were "sacrilege" to the memory of colleagues who had died fighting fascism.

All members of the panel called for increased cultural exchanges under the new Geneva agreement as a method of overcoming misunderstanding on both sides. "If people can get acquainted through literature it will help to prevent the pressing of the nuclear button", Mr Yevtushenko argued.

The poet-turned-film-maker (his film *Kinderarten* is soon to open in the United States) submitted a number of ideas for future exchanges with the US, including a 10-day film festival in each country and a joint poetry festival.

He recalled that he had once recited with Robert Frost in a Moscow student restaurant.



Sylvester Stallone's Rocky, "a new type of screen hero, an ideologically-motivated killer".

## Soviet plea to stamp out 'warnography'



Rocky and his massive Soviet opponent, Drago, eyeing each other with barely-contained hostility in *Rocky IV*.

## Orders generate 2,800 jobs

Continued from page 1

create about 800 jobs at Cammell Laird, its present workforce is about 1,300. The total cost of all four submarines, including equipment supplied by the Ministry of Defence, will be about £500 million.

The orders for the diesel vessels were placed with Vickers after competitive tenders had been submitted by them and by the Clydeside shipyards Scott Lithgow and Yarrow. Mr Lamont estimated that about £10 million had been saved on the price of the vessels through competitive tendering, and a further £10 million by placing all orders with a single group.

It was, he said, "a clear example of the success we are having with the Government's new policies for defence procurement".

Although Mr Lamont denied that it had affected the Government's decision, the placing of the orders will undoubtedly make privatization

of Vickers this spring a more attractive proposition for potential bidders.

Even though the Scottish shipyards failed to win any of the submarine orders, Mr Lamont announced that subject to satisfactory negotiations, it was intended to place orders worth about £10 million with Scott Lithgow for a range-mooring vessel and two lighters. The yard would also be invited to bid for refit work, and for steel work on the Trident submarines, as a sub-contractor of Vickers.

The order for torpedoes is for more than 2,000 Stingrays to be built by Marconi Underwater Systems, at a cost of nearly £400 million.

Mr Don Egan, managing director of the company, said the contract would create more than 2,000 jobs among sub-contractors, and nearly 700 occupations had tendered.

Mr Lamont said that in negotiations the ministry had achieved a good price for this contract, and through placing a

single bulk order rather than a series of batches savings of well over £50 million had been achieved.

The contract will be subject to stringent conditions. It is estimated that about 75 per cent of the value will be in items bought from outside suppliers by Marconi, and 75 per cent of those will be subject to competitive tendering.

There was bitter disappointment on the Lower Clyde yesterday at the decision to place the three submarine orders at English yards and up to 400 more redundancies are now unavoidable at the Scot Lithgow yard, Ronald Faux writes.

Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, said yesterday that it would have been too costly to divide the submarine order between different yards.

The workforce at Scot Lithgow has been cut in recent years from 6,000 to 2,000 with the latest redundancies announced just before Christmas.

## Pensioners robbed five times over Christmas

By Stewart Tandler  
Crime Reporter

A couple in their 80s living on a south London estate were burgled five times over the Christmas period. During the attacks on their home they were also beaten, Scotland Yard disclosed yesterday.

The burglaries were not reported by the couple, who do not have a telephone, and they were rescued after a mixman found them injured.

Mr Henry Beaton, aged 87, of Maskell Close, St Martin's Estate, Tulse Hill, and his wife Violet, aged 84, were said to be in a satisfactory condition in hospital yesterday.

Their home was first burgled sometime between December 20 and 21, and then between December 23 and 24, December 30-31, New Year's Eve, and early on New Year's Day. In the attack on the afternoon of New Year's Eve the couple were threatened with a handgun by the burglars, who took their doorkeys and £30 in cash.

At 1 am on New Year's Day between two and four youths broke into the flat and held the couple for about six hours. Mr Beaton received broken ribs, bruising and a head wound. He was told that his toes would be cut off.

Yesterday as police began searching the estate after interviewing the couple, a suspect was approached. He became violent and other youths came involved with police. A police dog handler was taken to King's College Hospital, south London, with a head injury.

Five adults and a juvenile were held by police. One was arrested as a suspected burglar, three for assaulting police and two for obstructing police.

## Move to stop office smokers

The Health and Safety at Work Act may be used to eliminate tobacco smoke from offices and factories. Environmentalists in Birmingham are studying the Act to see if it can be used against cigarette smoke in the same way as it is used against other pollutants, in order to protect the health of non-smokers.

### Today's events

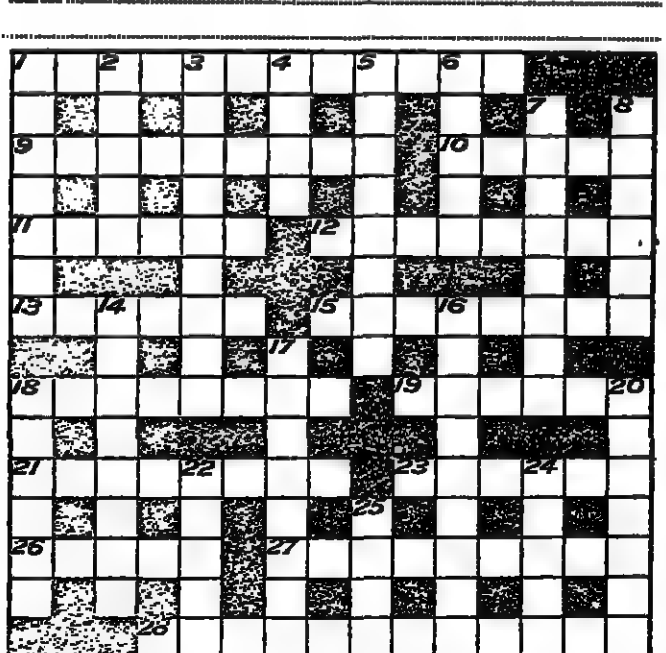
New exhibition  
Matrices: illustrations from Ronald Toulson's Wells Art Gallery.

Solution of Puzzle No 16,930  
The winners of Crossword Puzzle No. 16,930 are: Mr D. Lark, Church Hill, Loughborough; Dr T. Gillespie, Tinsell, Clipping, Clipping, Clipping; Mr G. J. Wilson, 30 Winton Crescent, Edinburgh. The winners of Crossword Puzzle No. 16,930 are: Mrs N. C. Scott, Green Bank North, Grimsby; Mr J. E. Green, 2 Port Vale, Herford; Mr J. P. Walters, 4 Rhyol Yr Deff, Aberystwyth, Gwent; Mr J. E. Green, 2 Port Vale, Herford; Mr J. P. Walters, 4 Rhyol Yr Deff, Aberystwyth, Gwent; Mr J. E. Green, 2 Port Vale, Herford; Mr J. P. Walters, 4 Rhyol Yr Deff, Aberystwyth, Gwent.

### The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,935

A prize of The Times Atlas of World History will be given for the first three correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, 12, Leam Street, London WC99 9ET. The winners' names will be published next Saturday.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_



- ACROSS
- After dinner, trail all over the place with poor Podany (4-8).
  - The Lady of the Lake? (9).
  - One of the Arab statesmen can be back in a minute (5).
  - Employs silver injection in treatments (6).
  - Dashed round waterfall and got a wrench (8).
  - Imposed limited settlement (6).
  - Qualified as bachelor? (8).
  - Old Bob can get to fish (5-3).
  - Arrest of old Women's Land Army backed by secret service (6).
  - Kid stuff? (8).
  - Pull cast by Elijah over successor (6).
  - Aim of Indian province is to raise the lowly (2-3).
  - Replaced an idle CO - a half-hearted type? (9).
  - Fast start has upset time Sweden previously smashed (3,9).
- DOWN
- Caedonian waterway? (7).
  - She produces note on national insurance article (5).
  - Dawdling about with Beatrix or Leach in Gateshead (9).
  - Flower Nora found wild in Italy (4).
  - Act on vote for nominal change (4,4).
  - Artist accepts order sent by word of mouth (5).
  - Preserve French artists from drug (8).
  - One of the strings in a racket (6).
  - Was Gay's Jenny a fidget? (8).
  - Dope obtained with Berber support (9).
  - Under the rule of Frank, women were unsuccessful (2,3).
  - Take down a reminder from club secretary? (6).
  - Hardly a bird seen in covert (7).
  - They are taken by Partisans in the Borders (5).
  - Stuff introduced by Harris is on the borderline (5).
  - First way to tie up a lot of wood (4).

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 31

### In the garden

The cold spell may have persuaded worms on lawns to burrow well below the surface. In cold or dry weather they may descend to a depth of three feet or more. Sweep off any remaining worm casts.

Worms do not live in acid soils. If there are any in your lawn make a note to start giving dressings of an acid fertilizer such as sulphate of ammonia or sulphate of iron in March to bring it into an acid condition - pH 5 is fine for lawns.

Large numbers of electric propagators were given as Christmas presents and the recipients are no doubt keen to put them to work. This you may well do to root cuttings of ivy, tradescantia and other foliage plants. But unless you have a heated greenhouse or conservatory do not rush to sow seeds of tender hardy plants. Be guided by the advice on the packet or in the catalogue. If you sow too soon you may well end up with hundreds of seedlings and nowhere to keep them until it is safe to plant them out.

Try to keep a small area of a pool surface free from ice if there are fish in the pool. Do not break the ice by hitting it. Stand a kettle of hot water on the ice to melt a hole and if the pool is two big holes out enough water to leave an inch or so of air between the ice and the water. Lay some wire netting or canvas across the hole and cover it with sack or thick plastic sheeting. Ensure this cover is not weighed down by snow as it may freeze again, if it touches the water.

Alternatively install one of the small electric pool heaters which will keep an area free from ice large enough for fish to come to the surface to breathe.

Keep a sharp eye open for traces of mice in sheds.

### Tomorrow

Last chance to see  
The Anderson Collection of art nouveau: The Mappin Art Gallery, Weston Park, Sheffield, Sun 2 to 5. Twenty-nine etchings by Edouard Manet: Walker Art Gallery, William Brown St, Liverpool, 2 to 5.

### Anniversaries

TODAY  
Birth: James Ussher, Archbishop of Armagh, chronologist who dated the world's creation at 4004 BC, Dublin, 1581; Giovanni Pergolesi, composer, Jesu, Italy, 1710. Louis Braille, inventor of the system of that name, Coupvray, France, 1809; Sir Isaac Pitman, inventor of a shorthand system, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, 1813; Augustus John, painter, Tenby, 1876.  
Deaths: Stephen Hales, clergyman, pioneer of plant physiology, Teddington Middlesex, 1761; Henri Bergson, philosopher, Nobel laureate, 1928, Paris, 1941; Albert Camus, novelist, Sens, France, 1960; Erwin Schrödinger, physicist, Nobel laureate 1933, Vienna, 1961; S. E. Elton, 1945; Donald Campbell, killed when his speedboat crashed on Coniston Water, Cumbria, 1967.  
TOMORROW  
Birth: Kasimir Adenauer, 1st Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany 1949-63, Cologne, 1876; Hamlet Wolfe, poet, Milan, 1886.  
Deaths: Saint Edward the Confessor, reigned 1042-66, London, 1066; Sir Ernest Henry Shackleton, explorer, South Georgia, Antarctica, 1922.

### The pound

	Bank	Bank
Australia	2.21	2.07
Canada	2.25	2.07
Denmark	13.42	12.73
France	11.27	10.72
Germany	275.00	265.00
Italy	11.80	11.20
Japan	305.00	285.00
Netherlands	11.12	10.77
Portugal	255.00	245.00
Spain	16.00	15.00
Sweden	11.30	10.84
Switzerland	3.10	2.94
USA	1.50	1.43
Yugoslavia	580.00	560.00

Retail Price Index: 378.4.  
London: The FT index closed up 11.1 at 1149.5.

### Portfolio

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below this week's *Portfolio* price changes (today's are on page 12).

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
1st	+1	+4	-	+6	+5
2nd	+3	+4	-	+2	+2
3rd	+2	+7	-	+4	+4
4th	+2	+6	-	+3	+4
5th	+3	+4	-	+5	+8
6th	+3	+4	-	+2	+6
7th	+3	+8	-	+2	+6
8th	+1	+9	-	+5	+2
9th	+2	+2	-	+3	+2
10th	+2	+8	-	+1	+2
11th	+2	+3	-	+4	+1
12th	+3	+8	-	+1	+2
13th	+7	+3	-	+3	+3
14th	+5	+2	-	+1	+2
15th	+2	+2	-	+6	+1
16th	+1	+6	-	+2	+2
17th	+4	+2	-	+1	+7
18th	+1	+2	-	+5	+2
19th	+6	+2	-	+1	+5
20th	+2	+5	-	+5	+5
21st	+3	+4	-	+2	+3
22nd	+5	+3	-	+2	+4
23rd	+5	+3	-	+2	+3
24th	+2	+2	-	+1	+5
25th	+2	+2	-	+5	+3
26th	+5	+2	-	+1	+2
27th	+2	+4	-	+2	+5
28th	+4	+2	-	+3	+2
29th	+2	+4	-	+2	+2
30th	+3	+3	-	+3	+5
31st	+2	+5	-	+2	+4
32nd	+1	+4	-	+5	+1
33rd	+1	+4	-	+2	+2
34th	+2	+2	-	+2	+2
35th	+2	+5	-	+3	+1
36th	+2	+3	-	+4	+5
37th	+2	+2	-	+1	+2
38th	+2	+3	-	+2	+5
39th	+2	+2	-	+2	+4
40th	+3	+2	-	+2	+1

### Times world-wide

Noon in London is 7 am in New York; 4 am in San Francisco; 9 pm in Tokyo; 11 pm in Canberra; 2 pm in Johannesburg; 4 pm in United Arab Emirates; 3 pm in Kenya; 1 pm in Nigeria; 3 pm in Moscow; 8 pm in Hong Kong.

### SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm)	U	Co
AUSTRIA			
Golden	15	45	Piste fair
Lower facing slopes icy			
FRANCE			
Isère	50	65	good
Good base forming			
SWITZERLAND			
Verbier	45	70	good
Silt worn and rocky patches			
Val d'Aoste	10	15	poor
Most runs open, worn snow			
Zermatt	25	55	good
All lower slopes closed			
In the above reports, supplied by reports British, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper snow reports page 19.			

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes, and Art for artificial. Other snow reports page 19.

### Weather forecast

London, SE England, East Angles: Dry and bright, but outbreaks of rain or sleet later; wind strong from W, light becoming a fresh breeze from W. High 10.5, low 6.5, temp 10-15. SE England, East Angles: Dry and bright, but outbreaks of rain or sleet later; wind strong from W, light becoming a fresh breeze from W. High 10.5, low 6.5, temp 10-15.

NOON TODAY  
London 4.35 pm to 7.35 pm  
Edinburgh 4.35 pm to 7.35 pm  
Manchester 4.35 pm to 7.35 pm  
Sheffield 4.35 pm to 7.35 pm  
Birmingham 4.35 pm to 7.35 pm  
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4-10 January 1986

## SATURDAY

A weekly guide  
to leisure, entertainment  
and the arts

## Troubled times on paradise island

Radio's Desert Island Discs returns

tomorrow. But under Michael Parkinson it will be far less cosy than before. Even the choice of the first guest provoked some disagreement, as Bryan Appleyard reveals.

Bruce Oldfield, dress designer to the likes of Joan Collins and the Princess of Wales, is facing Michael Parkinson, the new presenter of Radio 4's *Desert Island Discs*. They are having a pre-recording chat and "Parky" brings up the subject of the royal connections.

Suddenly deadly serious after all the mild banter, Oldfield leans forward and mutters urgently across the green baize table: "Don't ask me any direct questions about that. I know that the Queen listens to this programme and you know how cross she can get." Oldfield has clearly felt the lash of the royal tongue before.

Parkinson absorbs this with a wry smile. The recording gets under way. Oldfield is anxious that he has still not worked out the one luxury he is allowed on the island, but otherwise he is fluent and confident... almost cocky.

But Parkinson has scented blood and, sure enough, up comes the question about dressing people like Princess Diana and Joan Collins. He attempts, not entirely successfully, to exude the air of a man who has just plucked any two names out of the air.

Oldfield falters but seems to recover with: "I'm usually in charge." Parkinson counters with a broad grin and: "You don't invoke the Royal displeasure then?"

Oldfield is definitely rattled now, but he manages: "You mean from Joan?" He waves an index finger in angry rebuke. The guard is now up and, even after a few more record breaks, Oldfield is clearly on the look out for more of the same. But Parkinson is a seasoned gunner who has found his range; he measures his next shot flawlessly.

Coming in straight from a musical break, the Yorkshire accent at its flattest and most calculatedly phallic, he takes aim and fires: "Now, dress designing. Is it a proper job?"

The Oldfield face drops and he bungles badly, coming up with a lame answer about how hard he works - up to 10 hours a week just on promotion.

The recording ends. The luxury settled upon was an endless supply of cigarettes and the book, apart from the Bible and Shakespeare, was J. P. Donleavy's *The Dubliners* of *Darcy Dancer, Gentleman*.

As we file out of the sound engineer's box Parkinson bursts out of the studio and grabs me by the elbow. His eyes are those of a hunter after a successful kill. He had sweetly, smilingly and amiably "turned over" Oldfield and he knew it.

"Can you have a word with him?" He flicks his head in the direction of the producer Derek Drescher who, mercifully, cannot hear what is going on.

"Try to persuade him to put this one out first." One knows exactly what he means. After 43 years of the urbane flattery of Roy Plomley, Parkinson wanted his first show to announce that a new style had come to *DID*.

Once, appearing on the show had been like receiving the OBE for dying - nobody would say anything bad about you - but now things are clearly going to be a little trickier.

Unfortunately, a slightly shocked Drescher had already confided in me: "I don't think we can really start with this one." The poor man had produced the show for 10 years with Plomley. Now he was obviously glimpsing the possibility that one of the coziest and most amiable jobs in broadcasting was in serious danger. Parkinson was threatening to detonate the formula.

Drescher intended to open with a programme which Parkinson had already recorded with film director Alan Parker. It had - so the public relations story goes - some sentimental value as Parker was to have been the next Plomley castaway.

In fact even the Parker interview had broken the old Plomley mould. Parkinson had known the director of *Midnight Express* and *Birdy* for some time and had steered him on to the subject of the state of the British film industry. Parker had been usefully controversial, denying the existence of any revival and generally pouring cold water on the usual movie hype. It was just that bit more explosive than anything Plomley would have tried.

But all this was becoming a bit like intruding on private grief. There was little, under the circumstances, I could do for Parkinson. I made my excuses and left.

During a telephone conversation a few weeks later, it became clear that Parkinson had grown weary of the whole issue. "What does it matter who kicks off? The sooner this becomes just another radio programme the better."

Throughout December Parkinson had been rushing to record a whole 14-show series of *DID*. Even this was in contrast with Plomley who had jugged along at a steady pace or two recordings a week. He used to take the castaways out to lunch.

Parkinson has abandoned even that. The problem is that he plans to spend three months from January watching cricket in Australia and the West Indies. So the programmes had to be set up by the New Year.

Plomley died in the spring and the decision was immediately taken to go on with the show. It was among the oldest programmes in the world and among the most loved. It had a warm combination of calm, obsequious chat and the mild thrill of guessing what records, luxuries and books the guests would choose. It was the essence of Radio 4, or more correctly, the Home Service, and it steadily drew one million listeners.

But Plomley was the programme. His solid, institutional quality arose from his friendly style and his complete inability to conduct an interview. His genial inquiries were predictable and designed solely to elicit a narrative on the most conventional possible view. There was never a difficult question and certainly no professional trickery. Roy Plomley never "turned over" anybody and he remains one of the few people who could be heard smiling on radio.

Plomley's widow, who inherited the show's copyright,



Shore touch: Parkinson rehearses with Bruce Oldfield (left) and Derek Drescher (centre) before the real interview (below)

had some say in the choice of successor. She agreed to a list of five names, any of whom could be chosen. Then she went public and announced that she preferred Richard Baker.

Drescher felt aggrieved and then distinctly wounded when she reacted badly to the choice of Parkinson. The battle between the old and the new had begun and Drescher was in the middle.

"Well, we did choose Parky because we wanted somebody slightly different," he confides, "somebody with a bit more edge. I mean people used to say that Roy was good at drawing people out - but he wasn't. If somebody wasn't talking he was lost."

On the Oldfield day Parkinson was to squeeze in two recordings - jazz musician Johnny Dankworth in the morning and Oldfield in the afternoon. The day starts at 10.30am in Drescher's office. It is in the Radio 3 building, to be close to the record library and the necessary expertise in identifying exactly what music castaways are after.

Parkinson bounces in slightly late and it immediately becomes clear that Dankworth - along with people like Boycott, Best and Connolly - is on the

list of Parky's intimates. Nobody is about to get "turned over".

He has all the non-style of wealthy middle-aged broadcasters - cavalry twill trousers, a pullover whose pattern matches his socks, a leather jacket and a salt-beef sandwich.

We plough through the list of music which Dankworth has sent them in advance. Drescher plays the records too loudly through his Marantz stereo and times them with his stop-watch.

Every piece draws out anecdotes at which Parkinson laughs in his familiar all-boys-together style.

That process over, we stroll over to Broadcasting House for the recording. Parkinson is insistently keen to establish that he wants to be different from Plomley. He, for example, wants Arthur Scargill as a guest - difficult to imagine him responding to the gentle interest of good old Roy.

The desert island itself is a green baize table surrounded by padded turquoise screens in one corner of an enormous studio. There is not so much as a cardboard palm tree to give a little atmosphere. During the recording, they do not even play the records. This annoys Parkinson, who keeps moaning about having to pick up the

interview by referring to the preceding unheard music.

But the sound engineer is perfect. He was obviously born inside Broadcasting House and has never been anywhere else. He is a young version of the vintage BBC buff and he still has his school name-tag on his battered brief case - "P.C. Hutchinson".

The show goes smoothly enough. It is not like Plomley in that Parkinson seems less interested in the whole life story and the tone is less deferential. But it is cosy.

Dankworth dealt with, we go in search of lunch. Parkinson knows of a Chinese restaurant but it is full. He stands for a while in front of the waiter to ensure he has been recognized, but the man remains inscrutable and the restaurant remains full.

Everybody drinks except Parkinson, yet even so he begins to loosen up in some mysterious way. He launches into some predictable criticisms of Terry Wogan - guests reduced to ciphers, too big for his boots and so on, all combined with the usual disclaimers - "of course Terry's a lovely guy."

Then he begins to wonder about Oldfield and Princess Diana and it becomes clear why he is relaxing - he is looking forward to the challenge.

Drescher leaves to start work with Oldfield, but Parkinson is warming to his theme and he stays over several more coffees to discuss the vicissitudes of broadcasting life.

Back at Drescher's office Oldfield has significantly raised the sartorial stakes - double-breasted black and white herring-bone jacket, black suede shoes and Paisley-pattern tie.

His choice of records - complete with serial numbers - had arrived neatly typed on Bruce Oldfield headed notepaper. But there is some trouble about the right order which nuzzles Parkinson. He keeps dragging the conversation back to practicalities while Drescher and Oldfield mull over precisely which piece is required from *The Magic Flute*.

Eventually we start the trek to a studio - this time it is smaller and there is no P. C. Hutchinson. Instead there is a girl of the genus "lilington" who priggishly cuts off the overheard conversation about the Royals and sneers "got your story then?" at the gentleman of the press. She also completes Parkinson and Oldfield's sentences and their grammar for the benefit of those in the box during the recording. Come

AND JUST ONE LUXURY?  
Castaways are allowed one object of their choice.  
After 43 years the beaches are littered...

There have been a few defeatists along the way. Bandleader Billy Cotton chose as his one luxury a ticket home and pianist Sir Clifford Curzon took along a pill to put him to sleep for ever. By and large, however, the desert island has become what it was never intended to be - a monument to self-indulgence.

With Marti Caine in her bubble bath, Janet Suzman in mink-lined hammock and Helen Mirren in silk underwear, it is scarcely surprising that most of the scores of field glasses and telescopes have, over the years of *Desert Island Discs*, been chosen by men - among them, A. F. Herbert, Eamonn Andrews, Ronald Searle, Robertson Hare, Sir Arthur Bliss, David Attenborough and Fred Trueman.

Allowing for the immortality of its occupants, the all-pervading aroma on the island is that of expensive perfume brought by Jessie Matthews, Alicia Markova, Felicity Kendal and, surprisingly, John Osborne.

Ever since Spike Hughes bowed up with a barrel of wine in January, 1952, the sound of drunken merriment has become steadily louder. C. Day Lewis, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Gregory Peck, and Sir Robin Day have kept the cellars topped up (actor Hugh Williams remembered mercifully to bring a corkscrew) while whisky has been laid on by R. C. Sherriff, Burl Ives, Daphne du Maurier, Lord Shrivell, the Marquess of Bath and Kingsley Amis, apricot brandy by Sir Alec Guinness and vodka by Terry Wogan.

If Superintendent Robert Fabian of Scotland Yard dared to emerge from under his umbrella he would have little difficulty in solving some outrageous thefts.

Scattered around the island are Valerie Hobson with the Albert Memorial, Osbert Lancaster with Venus de Milo, Tyrone Power with Leonardo da Vinci's notebooks, Kenneth Williams with Michelangelo's Apollo, Lionel Bart with Nelson's Column and Joan Fenn-

taine, perhaps most daringly of all, with the Taj Mahal.

Several castaways, however, are only here for the sleep. Among those who arrived with their own bed are Evelyn Laye, Sid James, bandleader Ray Ellington (with mosquito net), Baroness Summerskill (four-poster), David Niven and Margaret Leighton with her old Girl Guide camp bed.

What none of them realized was that sleep on the island is almost impossible - the whole place is shaking to the sound of music.

The orchestra is, to say the least, unusually composed, with Yehudi Menuhin, Max Jaffa, Frank Muir and James Herriot on violin; Pat Smythe, John Gregson, Marty Wilde, Harry Carpenter and Bing Crosby (guitars); Jimmy Edwards (euphonium); Henry Williamson (cor anglais); H. E. Bates (banjo); James Mason (bagpipes) and Humphrey Lyttelton, Valentine Dyall and Gareth Edwards on trumpet.

Although the great majority of islanders have chosen the quiet, contemplative life with paints, drawing materials or writing paper and pens, there is a certain amount of violent activity. While Sarah Vaughan, Sir Len Hutton, The Lords Boothby and Longford, Max Bygraves, Peter Brough and Archie Andrews are swinging around the golf course, Peter Ustinov and Alan Melville have brought their tennis rackets and Frederick Forsyth is creating mayhem with his bow and arrows.

Meanwhile, Tito Gobbi is keeping discomfort at bay with his ivory backscratcher, Ludovic Kennedy is savouring a jar of tartare sauce, Alfred Marks has brought along a telephone which doesn't work, Alfred Hitchcock a Continental railway timetable and Oliver Reed, regrettably, an inflatable rubber woman.

Only Victor Borge has brought nothing. For him, the greatest luxury is not having to pay tax or insurance.

William Greaves



Alan Parker (above) is the guest on the first *Desert Island Discs* of the new series, on Radio 4 tomorrow from 12.15pm-12.55pm.

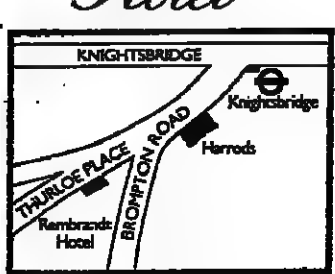
## SATURDAY

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Sting on his  
solo tour - page 32

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## TRAVEL

Shona Crawford Poole reports on Davos and keeps a weather eye on bargain breaks, while Richard Williams falls for Schlading

## Finding your ski legs in Switzerland

Davos boasts the first T-bar in the world. It is also the venue for the annual Anglo-Swiss parliamentary ski race, and to quote the town's own marketing manager "of all resorts we are among the more expensive". Oh, and Robert Louis Stevenson wrote the final chapters of *Treasure Island* while staying at the Belvedere hotel and over the hill is Klosters where Prince Charles used to ski.

At the Central Sporthotel where I stayed, the Jokers played live muzak and the biggest thing on the breakfast table was an orange plastic Ovomaltine bucket for collecting all the butter, sugar and jam wrappings that accumulate in the fight for their contents.

And, misery of miseries, my skiing had gone to pieces. Unfamiliar runs are no fun when every way down is as difficult as you can make it.

By the time my legs had remembered how to ski and London-trained lungs had acclimatized to lift at around 2,000 metres, the strengths and weaknesses of the place were becoming clear.

On the plus side is the extent and variety of the skiing. Most impressive are the long runs on Parsenn and the mogul slopes of Jakobshorn which face each

other across the town. With a score of 19 black lines on the piste map, there are plenty of mixed runs to interest the expert or intrepid, and it would be a very energetic intermediate skier who could explore the network of red runs thoroughly inside a fortnight.

Davos is the regional dairy centre and earnestly Swiss. Its dairies go in for long underwear, its ironmongers sell fine woodcarving chisels at a fraction of British prices, and the food is sumptuously, richly delicious. It goes without saying that everything works and that the green robbing stands in the main street never run out of plastic bags dispensed to con-

scientious citizens for collecting pooch poop.

Trains connect sensibly with buses and ski lifts and all of them run on time, which is just as well because getting from one place to another takes a little planning. The town is long and thin and divided into two distinct areas: Davos Dorf and Davos Platz. By bus from Platz to Dorf and thence by mountain railway to Weissflurjoch, watershed of the Parsenn area, took exactly an hour at mid-week in low season.

It is precisely because Davos is a real place that it is less convenient than a purpose-built resort and more difficult to come to grips with quickly. For this reason and because the skiing is so diverse a guide is an invaluable introduction.

Tailor-made Ski Tours, a five-year-old tour operation to Davos run by qualified ski instructors Colin and Judith McCubbin, includes two days of guided skiing in groups of no more than five in every week's skiing booked. The McCubbins will take off into the powder, through the trees, down the gullies or stick safely to cruising on piste exactly as their clients wish. They are very nice people to ski with, especially for those in the mood to stretch themselves.

## TRAVEL NOTES

Tailor-made Ski Tours, Egham House, Farleigh Wick, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire BA15 2PZ (0225 859598). A week at the four-star Central Sporthotel with scheduled Swissair flight, train transfers from Zurich, full winter sports insurance and two days ski-guiding costs from £349. Throughout January, Tailor-made runs powder skiing weeks with five days of ski-guiding for a £25 surcharge on the basic holiday price. The company offers studio and apartment holidays, self-drive arrangements and selection of hotels.

## Pocket guide

Bargain hunters in the January ski holiday sales will find some exceptional buys this year. The reason is a happy conjunction of weather and school holidays.

With Europe's children back at their desks in early January the rest of the month is always a low season, and traditionally combines the lowest prices of the year with the greatest abundance of snow. It can, of course be bitterly cold, and it is often snowing when skiers want to be out.

But this year, prices already adjusted to their seasonal lowpoint are being dropped still further because the season got off to such a slow start. Snow conditions were very poor almost everywhere before Christmas - the exception was the Arlberg area on the Austro-Swiss border which is one of the few regions with a solid base this year. But this week's widespread heavy snowfalls ensured that in the immediate future conditions should be good throughout the Alps.

Now to those cut-price holidays. Chalet skiing is where the greatest savings are to be found, because the operators are committed to the rental of the

buildings and to employing the chalet girls. Not only do they want to sell the beds, but chalets are invariably in the best resorts.

Thus, at St Anton, in the Arlberg area of Austria, which had good early snow, Bladen Lines (01-785 2200) has already filled its chalets. But in Courchevel, in the Trois Vallées of France, where the snow is good now but was poor earlier, Bladen Lines offers a full-board week in its Chalet Astragale for £139 plus £20 insurance, down from £274.

Supertours (01-584 5060) has dropped the price of a week at the Chalet Baren in St Anton from £254 to £184 (plus £30 for airport tax and insurance), and offers comparable reductions on a week in Courchevel - a double with en suite bathroom at Chalet Maisonne is now £204 per person (plus £30 for airport tax and insurance), down from £284.

In Morbier, still in the Trois Vallées, Snowlines (01-836 5237) has dropped the price of a week in Chalet La Riche from £235 to £160 plus £17 insurance. All prices quoted are for January 11 departures.

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Fresh fields: recent snowfalls have improved conditions

## The lowdown on Austria

It is said that no man will admit to being a poor performer in bed or at the steering wheel. I will go further. I am no good on T-bars, either.

I try, though. Whole afternoons are sacrificed to private T-bar practice as I shuttle up and down a nursery slope, chanting a mantra specially devised to relax the nerves by engendering a trust in the basically benign intention of whoever invented the blasted device.

The T-bar is not, I tell myself, part of the SAS induction course. It is there simply to take you up the hill, a function it performs without drama for millions of fat grandmothers and mewling eight-year-olds each season. It is so easy that some people can even ride a T-bar and conduct a conversation at the same time.

Not me. If you see my lips moving, it is merely to recite the mantra: "Relax... bend the knees... let the bar pull you... don't lean out... DON'T LEAN OUT..."

A moment later, I have executed a graceful sideslip into the virgin powder and am gazing in a rage at the ascending posterior of the large German with whose centre of gravity I have just proved incompatible. Then I contemplate the prospect of sidestepping 30 metres down to the foot of the lift, dodging the mocking smiles of a

stream of ascending eight-year-olds and grandmothers.

Since this was practically the last thing that happened to me at the end of four days in Schlading, it has since become a bit of a speck in the memory. That is a pity, since this attractive old town otherwise has much to commend it to skiers of every calibre.

A first good impression was created by the 90-minute transfer from Salzburg's little airport, much appreciated by those still rubbing a sore memory of a six-hour trip between Geneva and Val d'Isère. The second obvious asset was the intimate, uncommercialized atmosphere of the town centre, which might be likened to a calmer Kitzbühel. The third attraction was the fact that, despite brown meadows at ground level (745m), we were able to ski at all.

Schlading has four mountains, one of which - the 1,894m-high Planai - rises practically out of the town centre. Planai's features include the opportunity to ski a world championship downhill course, whose grand sweeps are quite

I stayed in Schlading at the four-star Sporthotel Rayer, where Thomas Cook offers half-board terms ranging from £289 for seven nights in low season to £635 for 14 nights in mid-February.

manageable by intermediates. On our visit though, the bare final section had been covered a day or two before by artificial snow, which had frozen into a field of vicious moguls. That put an end to the dreams with a bump or, rather, a series of bumps.

Of the three other peaks, Hochwurzen probably has the best beginners' slopes while Hauser Kaibling and Reiteralm are covered in the sort of ragged red runs that raise fallen spirits. They raised mine, anyway, after a distinctly patchy week in the French Alps.

Those T-bars undid most of the good work, though. On the glorious Reiteralm there are two in particular that proved shattering, each dragging skiers for nine minutes over distances of more than 1.6km.

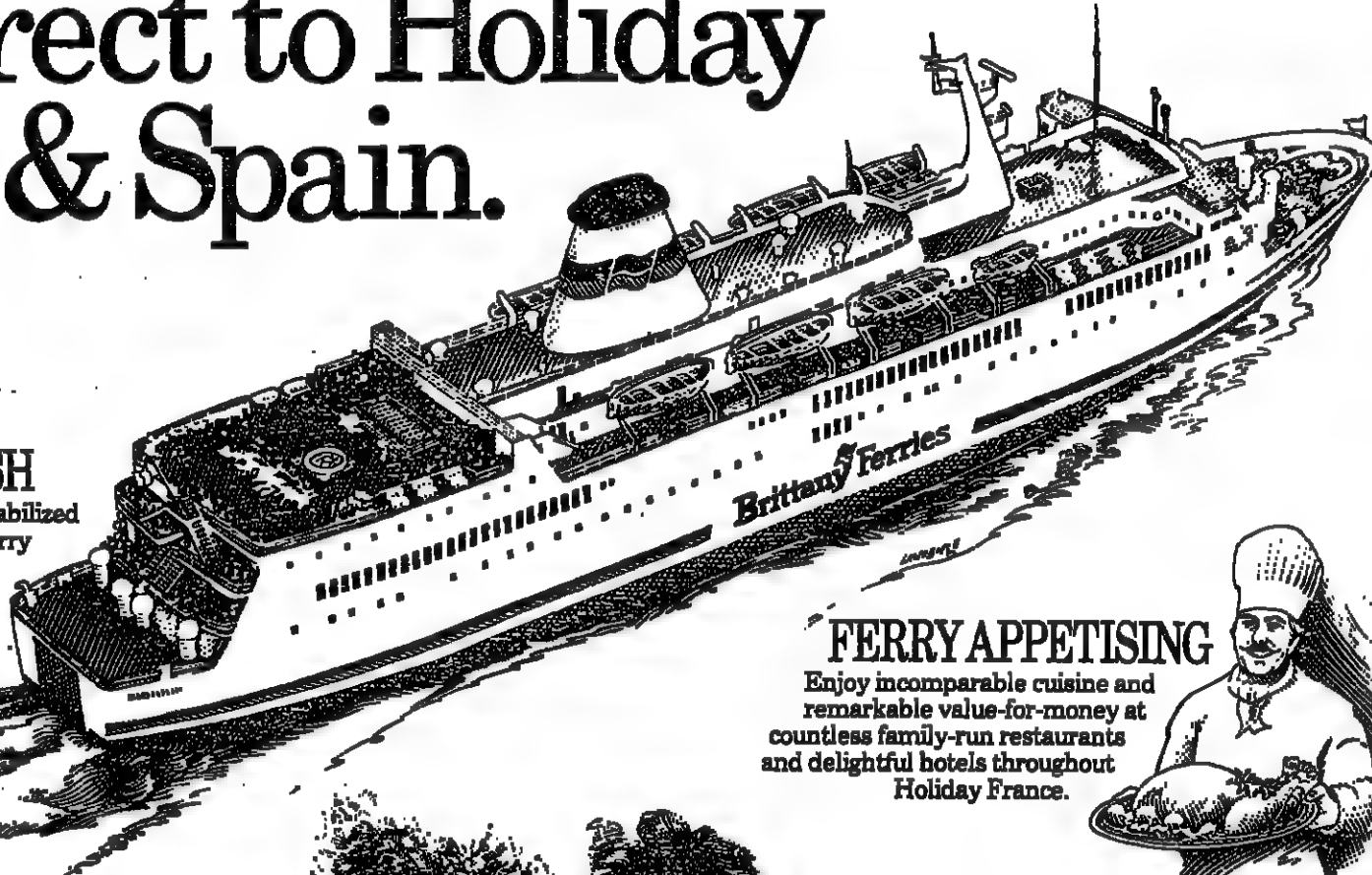
Would it not be in the Austrians' best interests to install chairs in such places? Or am I just being pathetic in expecting them to accommodate the incompetence of those who were not born on skis?

While they are improving transportation, they should also do something about getting up the shuttle service between the four mountains. We heard several complaints from British holidaymakers that buses turned up infrequently and erratically - another area in which Val d'Isère could teach Schlading a useful lesson.

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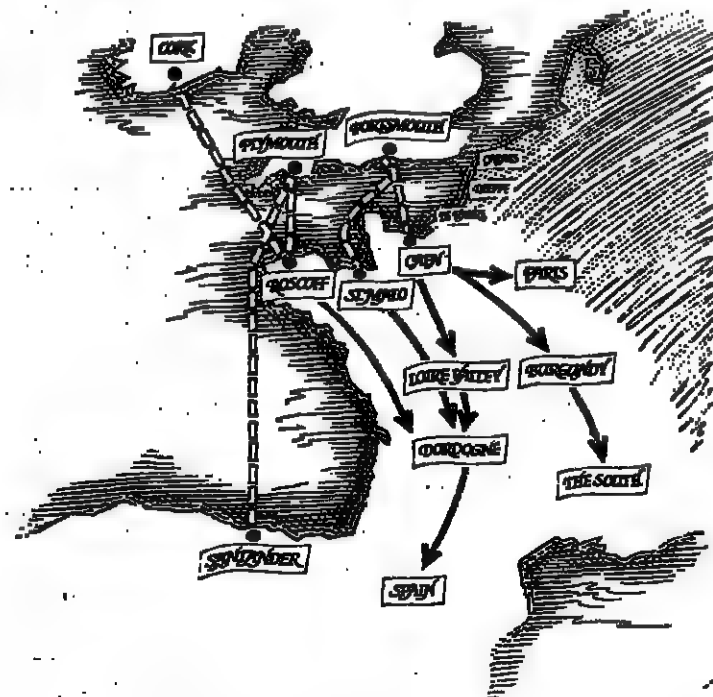
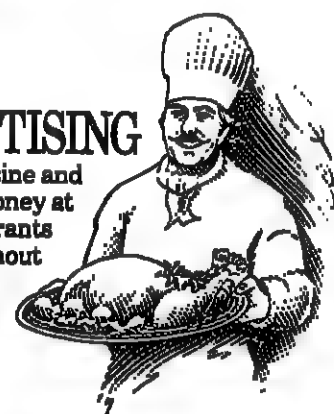
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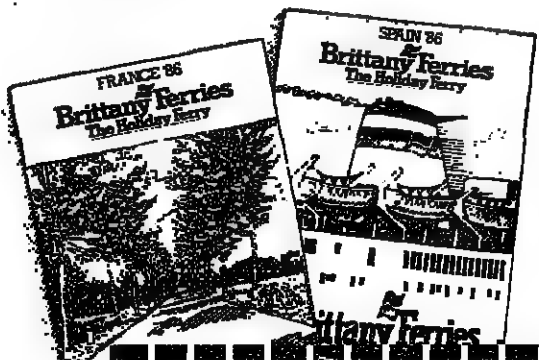
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## SHOPPING

# Pack to the future

The art of packaging has become almost as important as the contents to boost sales. But Beryl Downing discovers the modern image promoted by designers owes much of its style to ideas from days long past

Will this year be the year of the superpack? High street shops throughout the country are being revamped with mirrored pillars and floor-to-ceiling plate glass. The products they offer are aimed at a young, design-led generation. So why does the motto of the packaging designers still seem to be *Per nostalgia ad nauseam*?

It is because that is how the rest of the world sees Britain and British goods, then perhaps it is time we disabused them. At the turn of the century, as now, we had to do a good deal of flag waving to combat imports and every product had a picture of John Bull or Britannia rubbing Union Jacks with an occasional lion. Even in those days, but using them in advertising and wrappers was a new idea. Even Royalty was not immune. It would be unthinkable today for the Queen to allow her photograph to appear on a packet of porridge oats. But in 1897 the buyers of Golder Oats

must have been reassured by the picture of Queen Victoria above the caption "Two Safeguards of the Constitution".

The Princess of Wales endorsed The Alexandra Dental, oil, starch and chocolates and Edward VII apparently enjoyed Horniman's Pure Tea and Spratts Patent Dog Cakes. All these examples are from Robert Opie's collection of packaging in his book *Rule Britannia* (Viking, £12.95).

Commercial endorsement by the Royal Family stopped in the early 1920s, although it is still allowed for jubilees, weddings and other special occasions. But the feeling for tradition and the security it implies continues in other forms.

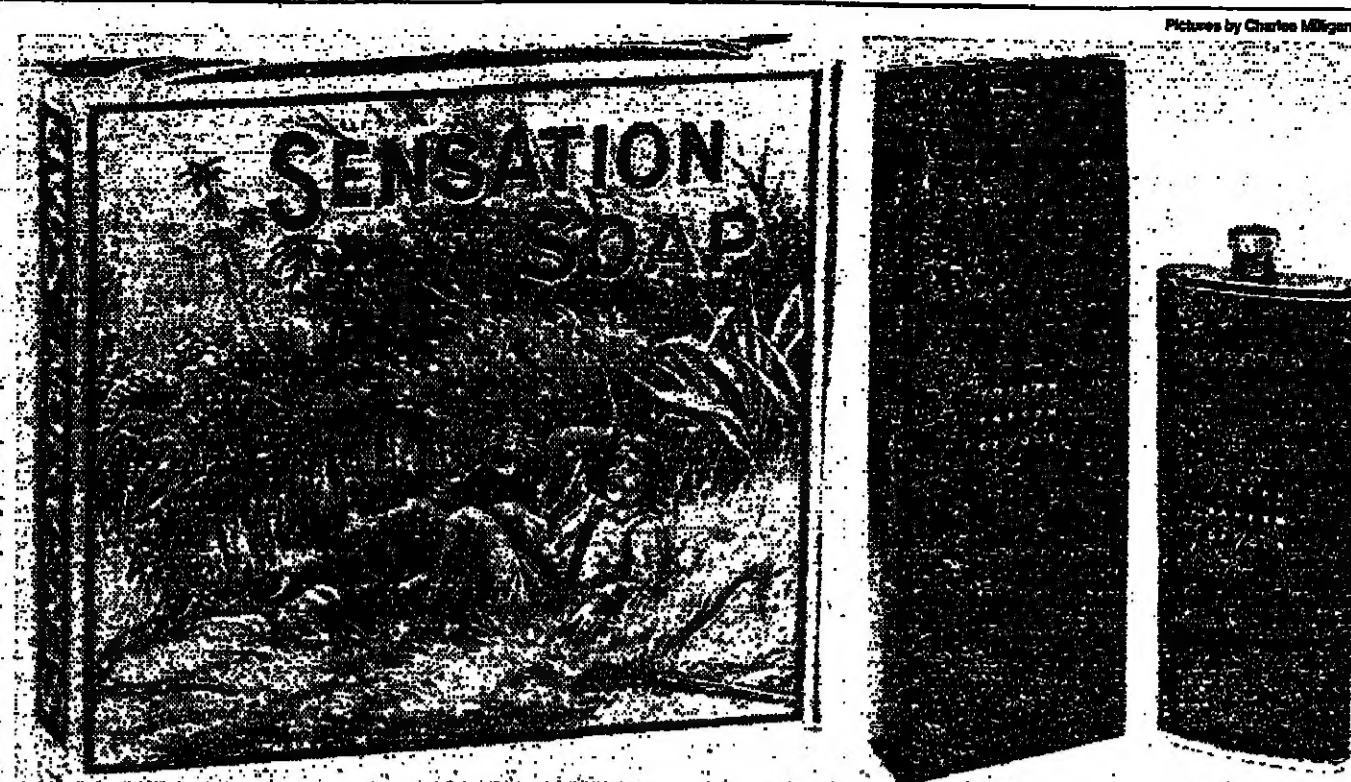
Packaging designers strongly defend the validity of nostalgic packaging. Trickett & Webb is a consultancy which has become known for retrospective designs commissioned for centenaries and celebrations, including a book for Unilever's Sunlight soap centenary, a Colman's mustard tin for the Queen's jubilee and several products for Marks & Spencer.

"Some people think of us whenever they want something that looks old and comes in a tin, but we don't do nostalgia purely for the sake of it," says Brian Webb. "Modern high-tech design is good for certain efficient, streamlined things, but you can't put delicate items into that sort of packaging. Even the most sophisticated people have a fear of the unknown. If you can approach them with something familiar you are half way there, as long as it is accompanied by a good idea."

One of his recent successful ideas was to package a range of men's gifts like a series of books. "The problem was to find something that would apply to a whole range of unrelated products. Until our book series the basic idea seemed to have been, 'just anything in a pack as long as it has a handkerchief with it. It was nice to be able to add a bit of fun."

"When I was at college in the 1960s there was only one way of looking at design - clean, hard-edged, hygienic. Today we assess products in their own right and package for the people and the market they are aimed at."

Whether we, the public, appreciate the efforts made on our behalf is another matter. We spend nearly £3,000 million a year wrapping things up in decorative boxes that are thrown away. Yet packaging is not only to say: "Pick me up - I'm the best", but also to give protection to the contents



Ancient and modern: a soap packet (c.1900) from Robert Opie's collection and the 1985 image for scent - no longer pretty and delicate but strong and chic in a black and stainless steel flask with matching black and silver packaging to echo Joseph's fashion image. It exemplifies Michael Peter's belief that the product's styling will influence the packet's design.



Novel nostalgia: creating a series of mock books with witty titles was Trickett & Webb's way of finding a common denominator for a group of otherwise unrelated men's gifts by Boots. They chose the 1930s as a suitable style for the 1985 Christmas market as this is one of the currently fashionable retrospective periods. The "dust cover" is not only a practical and original lid but also carries the essential information about the product on the "fly leaf".



Two for tea: the Twinings tin (right), designed in 1935, is still used for specialist food halls and exports. The black pack with a different cameo design for each blend was introduced in 1982. Sales have trebled.

and information about the product. It should also be safe to handle and easy even for disabled fingers to open. A Design Council exhibition on packaging last year showed that although 50 children suffocate each year by putting plastic bags



consultancy is an international leader in packaging. "Traditional packaging is the cardboard box you put round the object, but the future of packaging is in the styling of the object itself," he says.

"The public doesn't yet understand about graphics - people haven't learned the language as they have in the style of their clothes. But the new generation of youngsters is the first that readily understands design and they are demanding good looking products."

"I have to try to be a visual clairvoyant and I can see tremendous changes coming." The effect of wider markets and international trade has meant that there is less national identity about packaging from other countries.

"The British were leaders in packaging until about 1920 and the Americans took over in the 1950s, but now they are losing their way," says Peters. "Even the Japanese, who traditionally have had caring as part of their culture and show it in the way they present things, are now adopting the worst of the West's vulgar packaging."

John Blackburn, whose design partnership won the 1985 Design & Art Directors' packaging award for its presentation of

Past mastery: in 1976 Eisenham altered their packaging to a new no-frills style (top left) in order to create a value-for-money image in supermarkets. For years they had dominated the specialist gift and food market with the quality of their products and the matching quality of the packaging. The change was disastrous and alienated customers even though the contents remained the same. When competitors began to make headway at their expense, they decided to redesign the packs once again. The new/old design (left) by Michael Peters & Partners has a Victorian-style motif and pictures of fruit, implying traditional quality and freshness in order to reinforce the quality image and to emphasize the loving care which goes into the gourmet foods made in an English kitchen. The appeal had instant results and Eisenham is now selling worldwide on the strength of it.

Cockburn's Tawny Port, points out that even the Italians, admired so much for their sense of style, are not particularly inspirational about packaging. "If you over-package something it will make people suspicious. You have to inspire confidence."

Sales graphs show how the right packaging sells the product, whether we like to believe it or not. Some of us resent paying extra for presentation and go to the nearest bulk-buy shop for goods in plain sacks and paper bags, but we are a minority. Certainly there are good cosmetics in plain jars and others in fancy packs that are no better and sometimes worse but if the fancy one makes us feel more glamorous, who can argue that it is not worth the price?

Perhaps designers' names should appear on packaging as they used to be on ceramics. That may encourage more innovation and higher standards, for designing the bits that are thrown away must be a frustrating business. Who at cocktail hour raises a glass to John Blackburn for updating the Harvey's Bristol Cream label? We ask if there is Peters still for tea at the Eisenham is spread on the crumpets? Only another designer.

Plants can be a little deeper than they were in the nursery but it is unwise to plant them above the nursery mark. Should a plant require staking always put the stake in the hole first.

Plants can be a little deeper than they were in the nursery but it is unwise to plant them above the nursery mark. Should a plant require staking always put the stake in the hole first.

## DRINK

## Buy now and beat the Bordelais

### JANUARY WINES

January is usually the quietest month in the wine calendar. The vines are dormant, very little work is done in the cellar and most wine merchants, after the festive rush, have nothing more pressing to do than sort out a few bin-end bottles for their new year sales. But this year, for UK wine merchants in the claret trade, January could turn out to be a very busy month indeed.

As early as last August and September, several wine merchants were already expressing concern over what they thought was a "conspiracy of silence" from Bordeaux. For instead of the usual long, detailed letters and telexes from Bordeaux negociants and proprietors describing the likely quality and quantity of the 1985 claret harvest, very little information was received.

Although it was clear then that the Bordeaux 1985 harvest was likely to be excellent due to the extraordinarily hot Indian summer, most British merchants had to unearth this important information for themselves. Many believed that this curious lack of first-hand news was due entirely to the Bordeaux wine trade trying to get rid of its mostly indifferent 1984 vintage before the word got out about the '85.

Three months later the English wine trade is worried about the opening prices that the Bordelais are likely to demand for their 1985 wine. Several Bordeaux proprietors, most notably Madame de Lencquesaing from Chateau Pichon-Longueville, and Comtesse de Lalande, have already stated that their '85 will be considerably more expensive than last year's vintage.

### The French risk losing the British market

This may sound fair because the '85 will certainly be better than the '84. But the opening prices charged for the disappointing '84 were, somewhat surprisingly, around 20 per cent higher than those of the splendid '83 vintage. If the '85 vintage is priced at a similar increase above the '84, the eventual price claret drinkers in the UK of the prestigious second growth is likely to be more than £25 per bottle.

In an attempt to avoid such stratospheric prices, UK wine merchants, led by Robin Kerrick, Clerk of the Royal Cellars and chairman of Corney and Barrow, have written stiff letters to the Bordeaux authorities and proprietors.

Simon Loftus from Adnams thinks the situation is "absolutely crazy" and urges UK wine merchants not to buy any wine at all if prices are so steep. Graham Chidgey from Laytons, another important Bordeaux buyer, takes an equally grim view: "The French believe they can ignore the poorer nations of Europe but they could risk losing the stable traditional British market."

Claret lovers on this side of the Channel should buy stocks of good yet still inexpensive claret now, if possible from the splendid '82 and '83 vintages before they leap up in price.

The magnificent 1982 vintage is the year to go for and although most of the finest *cru classe* wines are now priced on most merchants' lists for around £20, their second wines are still available for under half that price and, given the uncertainty over the '85 prices, they now look remarkably good value for money. Lay and Wheeler (6 Culver Street, West, Colchester, Essex) still list three fine examples.



My favourite is the second wine of Leoville-Las Cases - the Clos du Marquis with its deep purple colour and intensely rich cassia taste and cedary finish; definitely a January bargain at £8.28.

Pichon Lalande fans will be glad to know that they can still buy a reasonably priced wine from this property - none other than their '84 second wine, *Revue de la Comtesse*. With its dark colour turning garnet at the edges and rich, beefy taste, it is not as good as the Clos du Marquis but will mature earlier, and is again good value at £8.86.

A shade cheaper at £7.99 and worth every penny is the second wine of Gruaud Larose, *Serge de Gruaud Larose* from the St Julienne Commune, like Clos du Marquis and blessed with a similar cedary richness.

Apart from buying second wine from a great year such as 1982, try the second wines from unfashionable, quick-maturing vintages such as 1980. Pavillon Rouge 1980, the second wine from the back-on-top-form *premier grand cru classe* Chateau Margaux is superb with its wonderful full flowery bouquet and rich, soft, fruity taste (Lay and Wheeler, £7.99).

Jane MacQuitty

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## IN THE GARDEN

## Branch out into transplant operations

The best time to plant or transplant trees or shrubs is during their dormant period - the time between November and March when growth in deciduous plants stops so that damage from our cold winters is kept to a minimum. Evergreens go into a semi-dormant state but never stop showing signs of growth completely.

The ground and the weather conditions must be right. Do not try to plant into ground which is frozen, has more than a thin layer of frost, or is snow covered. Do not plant when the soil is so wet that it lifts in great lumps on the boots. It destroys the texture and it may take years to get it back into reasonable condition.

There are a number of other principles to bear in mind. Lift trees or shrubs carefully and make sure the roots are not broken any more than is necessary. Nurseries are usually very careful when lifting trees and shrubs, and only do so when they are in the right



Digging in: a scene from William Lawson's A New Orchard and Garden, published in 1676

condition for planting. It is easier to see how well a plant has been lifted if you are buying bare-rooted plants rather than container grown plants.

The time between lifting and replanting should be as short as possible. Never leave roots

exposed to the air. If you are not able to plant immediately the plants should be heeled in or they should be stored under shelter and covered with a wet sack. Plants delivered from a nursery should be opened up as soon as they have been received

and checked to see how well they have travelled. If they are dehydrated in any way they should be soaked in a bucket of water to restore plumpness. Prepare the planting site well. The ideal for a normal nursery shrub is to dig a hole 2x2ft and to 2ft deep. The bottom spit should have well-rotted farm yard manure or well-rotted compost mixed with the soil. This is best done well in advance of the planting and if necessary the hole can be filled in to be dug out again later. Bonemeal can be added to the top spit and mixed into the area into which the roots will go when planted. Never handle bonemeal with your bare hands unless you are sure it has been treated.

Plants can be a little deeper than they were in the nursery but it is unwise to plant them above the nursery mark. Should a plant require staking always put the stake in the hole first.

Ashley Stephenson

### QUESTION TIME

There is Honey Fungus in a bank I am developing, which has infected a privet hedge and an old beech. Can I treat the land and what plants can resist the disease?

You must ensure that all the root is dug from the soil and remove the two good plants at either end of the diseased area. Avoid replanting with woody plants for one year, longer if possible, and put in herbaceous plants instead.

I know of no effective chemical to control the disease, but Bray's Emulsion may help. Trees and shrubs which can survive the disease include: *Acer negundo*, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, *Prunus spinosa*, *Ailanthus altissima*, species of *Crataegus* and many of the *Tilia*. Shrubs to consider include *Cistus* species, *Cotinus coccinea*, *Rhus typhina*, *Lonicera nitida*, forms of the common ivy, *Hedera helix*, *Taxus baccata* the yew tree, *Tamarix* in its forms, clematis and eleanthus.

I have a number of gravelled paths and a large courtyard which needs regular attention to kill weeds and moss. What can I do to keep them clean?

Residual weedkillers are ideal on areas where you do not wish to grow other plants and as a rule a single application is enough to keep weeds away for at least a year. Use one of the non-creeeping weedkillers like Simazine or Casoron G. Moss

requires different treatment but a good moss killer will clean up the area with regular applications.

I have a tiny garden, no greenhouse or shed and want to store my dahlias and begonia tubers. What is the best place? Neither plant likes to be stored in the warm when dormant. They do not need light but must have air movement, so the storage site cannot be too enclosed. As you do not have ideal conditions the tubers should be placed in the dark in the coldest room in your house and wrapped in newspaper.

Readers with queries about gardening should write to Ashley Stephenson, The Times, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1.

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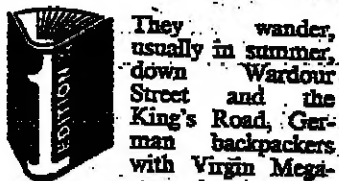






## Paperbacks

## On the road with the lost tribes of rock



They wander, usually in summer, down Wardour Street and the King's Road, Germany's backstreets, with their heavy metal patches on their denim jackets, Belgian punks with swastika tattoos on their cheeks, Japanese art students with David Bowie make-up.

They are the lost tribes of rock, retracing the ley-lines of an ancient land in search of relics symbolizing a culture that may have colonized the world more effectively than generations of soldiers and district commissioners.

By coincidence, John Platt and Marcus Gray now publish simultaneous attempts to reveal this secret geography of London. It occasionally, a turned stone begins to reveal as much as any of the alleys and drains of Hawksmoor/Dyer's city, recently revealed in Peter Ackroyd's book, then those of a certain age will also find pleasant memories released by some of the authors' reminiscences.

Platt begins in 1950 and ends with the close of the Sixties. He starts with the Soho beatniks, with the coffee bars -

London's Rock Routes by John Platt (Fourth Estate, £3.95)  
London's Rock Landmarks by Marcus Gray (Orion Press, £4.95)

Heaven and Hell, the 2 Is, the House of Sam Widges - that gave birth to skiffle and to early rock 'n' roll. Jazz, folk and the blues are woven skilfully into his story, with a cast including Ronnie Scott, Ken Colyer and Alexis Korner.

There is not much style in Mr Platt's writing, but there is a great deal of enthusiasm and accurate detail. He hits his stride with the appearance of the young Rolling Stones, formed in the west London crucible of Eel Pie Island, the Crawdaddy, the Ealing Club and the Railway Hotel, Harrow, and with the arrival of the Mods, who split into camps based on either side of Wardour Street at the Flamingo (Ivy League jackets, saxophones and marijuanas) and the Marquee (mohair suits, guitars and amphetamines).

The names roll by like a page of classified advertisements from an old copy of *The Melody Maker*: Klook's Kleek, the Ram Jam Club and Billy Walker's Upper Cut; Tiles, the "noisy underground" of Tom Wolfe's essay; the Scene in Great Windmill Street.

Mr Platt takes in the psychedelic years - *Gunny Takes A Trip*, UFO, the 14-Hour Technicolor Dream - and stops just as things are getting out of hand. His book is a good read, supporting the well ordered narrative with excellent pictures and helpful maps.

Mr Gray, by contrast, gives his information under alphabetical headings and clearly lost his heart to the punk revolution, whose heroes (Rotten and Sid Vicious, Joe Strummer and Siouxsie Sioux) are prominent on his pages. Those of an older generation who prepared the ground for the punks (the Stones, the Who, Marc Bolan, David Bowie) receive greater attention than those who did not.

Naturally, then, his perspective is less reliable, but some will still find this a useful book based on either side of Wardour Street at the Flamingo (Ivy League jackets, saxophones and marijuanas) and the Marquee (mohair suits, guitars and amphetamines).

The names roll by like a page of classified advertisements from an old copy of *The Melody Maker*: Klook's Kleek, the Ram Jam Club and Billy Walker's Upper Cut; Tiles, the "noisy underground" of Tom Wolfe's essay; the Scene in Great Windmill Street.

Richard Williams



Splitting image: Zoot Money's Big Roll Band outside the Flamingo, Soho, in 1964

## Rambunctious rambles through the past

Robert Nye does not make life easy for himself. Had he wished to do so he could hardly have embarked upon the further fleshing out of Sir John Falstaff, one of Shakespeare's most rounded comic characters.

Nor would he have been drawn to a similar operation on *Faust*, already so swollen with the attention of Marlowe, Goethe and Mann.

His two novels, each bearing its hero's name for the title, have been released by Penguin, respectively nine and five years after the original publication.

*Falstaff* was the winner of two fiction prizes, the Hawththorne and the Guardian, and remains marginally the better of the two - an extraordinary tract of intellectual rigour thrown down by a young man making a successful transition from poetry to the longer form.

A comparative study of these novels serves to show that the fat knight, rather than the soul-

*Falstaff* by Robert Nye (Penguin, £3.95)  
*Faust* by Robert Nye (Penguin, £2.95)

The effect is of a rather engaging drunk, railing and ranting in the presence of a stenographer for the sake of an ennobled posterity.

Here are 100 chapters, rambunctious rambles through the past, and supposedly sage asides: "About Great Events in the Wide World"; "The Art of Farting"; "About Doll Teasheet"; "A Night at the Bear's Head".

And, of course, about Prince Hal: "My mad lad, sweet, lag, sweet comparative, rascal, sweet young prince, mad was, the young prince that misled me... I was the fellow with the great belly. And he my dog."

The same processes are at work in *Faust* with the important difference that here we have a narrator, one Christopher Taggart, guiding us through the life. And what a life. More tapping, more bibulous ravings, more covert seduction on cold Protestant pews.

Alan Franks

## A willing slave who waited in the wings

Katherine Mansfield: The Memories of L.M. by Ida Constance Baker (Virago, £4.50)

"But you do see that our relationship was absolutely wrong now? You were identified with me. I prevented you from living at all. Now you have to learn and it's terribly hard." So wrote the dying Katherine Mansfield to her most faithful friend, Ida Baker.

This was not the tone she used with Ida during her life. Here is a typical example from an earlier letter, intolerant and demanding: "When you send papers get a label the size of the paper! Otherwise the copy arrives torn, black, torn and disgusting. Didn't you know?"

Katherine speaks to her like an employer telling off a servant. She could behave as she pleased with this faithful friend, housekeeper, nurse, nanny, slave, Ida Baker, nicknamed Leslie Moore. L.M. for short, never failed Katherine. Katherine described her in letters and journals and gave an image of her to posterity. Fifty years after Katherine's death, L.M. decided to give her own version of their friendship in *Memories of L.M.*

The book begins at Queens where the two girls met. Katherine was dreamy, gifted, egotistical. L.M. was dowdy and infinitely admiring. They became great friends. Later Katherine made an impact on the London literary scene, and L.M. did not fit in easily with friends such as the Lawrences.

But she had a positive talent for absorbing herself when not wanted. She could merge into the background, if necessary, even hide. L.M. relates their living arrangement in a Chelsea flat where L.M. slept up in the gallery: "If it happened to be a visitor, I lay on my bed very silently since, though Katherine and I were content, it might have been inhibiting for the visitor to know that an unseen third person was present."

Told in an unquestioning voice, this astonishing arrangement provides an image of their relationship. L.M. is the third party, listening, present but excluded. The implicit voyeurism is echoed many times later, as when she kept house for Katherine and her lover, later husband, John Middleton Murry. She was witness, confident and third person during Katherine's troubled affairs.

L.M. describes how she nursed Katherine; she was drawn back

into Katherine's life each time Katherine was sick and lonely, but any resentment on L.M.'s part is conspicuously absent.

It is intriguing to put these simple memoirs next to a letter from Katherine to Middleton Murry. For Katherine - and here the friendship begins to show its true address - the silent constancy of L.M. was malign and powerful. Everyone else abandoned Katherine: this woman didn't. But, stricken with tuberculosis in her lung, L.M. seemed like her nemesis: "She's a revolting hysterical ghoul... she's never content except when she eats me... She'd like me to be paralyzed, of course, or blind... I even go so far as to feel she has pecked her way into my lung..."

L.M. could possess her in illness. "In the periods when I was not actually caring for her I was almost vacant, resting



Difficult: Katherine Mansfield

rather than living", wrote L.M. Although to the outside eye she was exploited, on one level Katherine found her terrifying. She writes again to Murry, with a tubercular haemorrhage: "It's a good thing L.M. has come (even though I feel in some mysterious way she has done it. I do). Still, I'll use her as a slave."

*Memories of L.M.* is this same story from L.M.'s side, but she reports simply, without judging. It is not clear if she understood Katherine's ambivalence, but then Katherine was explicitly demanding ("I do love you and want you for my wife," she wrote) just as L.M. was inarticulately possessive, waiting in the wings to catch Katherine when she fell.

After Katherine died L.M. continued to serve others: "As Katherine expressed herself in writing, so I expressed myself in service."

Kathy O'Shaughnessy

## Hooked on hardship

The Day of the Fox by Norman Lewis (Robinson Publishing, £3.95)

This story of a small Spanish fishing village caught at a moment of change is a vehicle for Norman Lewis's extraordinary powers of description. The old traditions of resignation to hardship and injustice survive, but they are about to be disrupted, if not suddenly by revolutionary activity, then slowly by the development of tourism.

Costa is a simple fisherman who fought unenthusiastically in the Civil War on the side of the Nationalists. When he returns to his village, he finds that everyone else fought on the other side. Their memories are long and they reject him unwaveringly.

Excluded from their boats, he is forced to live in poverty which drives his aged mother to



Medicinal: Norman Lewis scavenges for food and his girlfriend to run away to Barcelona.

Lewis provides a meticulous account of the social dynamics of a Mediterranean village. More remarkably, he explains with absolute precision what it is like to be a lonely man in a small boat who must, for his livelihood, outwit both the fish and the sea.

Anne Barnes

## THE WEEK AHEAD

By Peter Waymark

## Showman who created Hollywood in England

## FILMS ON TV

A curiosity of the British cinema is that, while so much home-grown talent, from Chaplin to Stan Laurel, Hitchcock and Cary Grant, abandoned it for Hollywood, some of its most successful films have been made by foreigners.

In recent years one thinks of the Americans Looney and Kubrick and before that the Brazilians, Cavalcanti, but dwarfing them all in power and influence is the flamboyant Hungarian, Sir Alexander Korda.

He arrived in Britain in 1930 after a varied career that had taken him from Budapest to Paris, Berlin and Hollywood. Finding an industry that was insular and unsure of itself, he shook it into life and gave it hope.

Korda's twin assets were a personal charm that completely transcended an otherwise prickly temperament and a flair for showmanship. Through the 1930s, he combined the two to put British films on the world



Charmers: Korda

map for almost the first time in their history.

The paradox of Korda is that he revived the British cinema by thinking internationally. An outsider himself, he was never afraid to import stars and directors and the list includes such names as Marlene Dietrich, René Clair, the American William Cameron Menzies and Josef von Sternberg.

His films, too, owed far more to Hollywood than Pinewood. They were, typically, expensive

costume spectacles, often drawing on episodes from British history but intended to have a universal appeal.

Korda's base was not, in fact, Pinewood but Denham, a studio he built himself with money charmed out of the Prudential. It was another attempt to ape Hollywood, with facilities more lavish than had been seen in Britain before.

Korda spent extravagantly and lost money spectacularly. By the outbreak of the Second World War he was heavily in debt. His showpiece, *Denham*, had to be surrendered. But after a spell in the States he came back, mounted more lavish productions and lost more money - this time the Government's.

He died 30 years ago this month and BBC2 is marking the anniversary with a season of "Korda Classics". It starts tomorrow (8.25-5.25pm) with *The Four Feathers* (1939), a rousing adventure story set in Victorian Africa and directed by Korda's brother, Zoltan.

The film is notable for its fine Technicolor photography and the same applies to the 1940 version, co-directed by Michael Powell, of *The Thief of*



Courting couple: Charles Laughton and Blinnie Barnes in *The Private Life of Henry VIII*

*Baghdad* (Thurs, 7.15-9.00). Here is cinema artifice at its most potent, a dazzlingly inventive kaleidoscope of celluloid magic.

The other three pictures showing next week were directed by Korda himself. On Monday (6-7.30pm) there is *The Private Life of Henry VIII*, made in 1933, Korda's biggest money spinner and the first British film to have wide success in the United States. It contains a towering performance

by Charles Laughton. Laughton stars again as Rembrandt (Fri, 6-7.20pm), a moving portrait of the painter made in 1937. Completing the week is the 1941 *Lady Hamilton* (Wed, 6-8pm), with Vivien Leigh in the name part and Laurence Olivier as Nelson.

The season continues with *Marlene Dietrich in Knight Without Armour* (January 15) and Robert Flaherty's *Elephant Boy* (January 17). And on January 12 there is a not-to-be-

missed repeat of a television classic from 1965, *The Epic That Never Was*.

Bill Duncalf's documentary is the story of one of the most ambitious Korda projects, *I, Claudius*, with Charles Laughton as the eccentric Roman emperor, bedeviled by clashes of temperament and Laughton's agonizing over how the role should be played, the film was finally abandoned after the leading actress, Merle Oberon, was injured in a car crash.

## RECOMMENDED

*That's Entertainment - Part II* (1976): Clips from MGM films made between 1929 and 1958, introduced by Fred Astaire and Gene Kelly. Musicals predominate but there are also samples of Laurel and Hardy and the Marx Brothers (Channel 4, today, 6.30-8.50pm).

\* *Pauline at the Beach* (1983): Typically spare and elegant sex comedy from the French director, Eric Rohmer, charting passions and misunderstandings among a group of holidaymakers in Normandy (BBC2, today, 10.25pm-midnight).

*Lady in the Lake* (1946): Adaptation of the Raymond Chandler thriller, notable for director/star Robert Montgomery's use of the subjective camera so that the private eye hero, Marlowe, is seen only when reflected in a mirror (Channel 4, today, 11.15pm-1.10am).

North by Northwest (1959): Cary Grant and Eva Marie Saint in Alfred Hitchcock's joyous chase thriller which includes the famous crop-



Swanning about: Jeremy Irons in *Swann in Love*

dusting sequence and climatic shoot-out on Mount Rushmore (BBC1, tomorrow, 7.45-9.55pm).

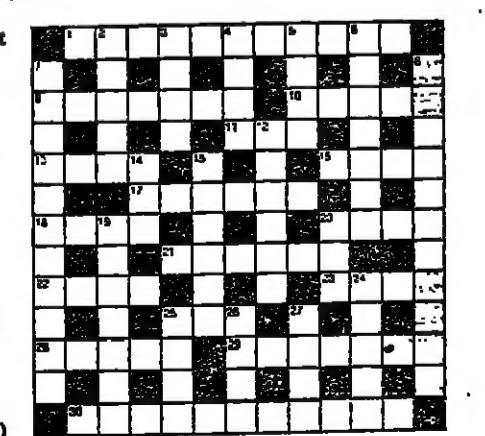
\* *Swann in Love* (1983): Jeremy Irons, Ornella Muti and Alain Delon in a tale of love and jealousy in 18th century Paris, adapted from Proust's *Remembrance of Things Past* and directed by Volker Schlöndorff (Channel 4, Wed, 10pm-12.05am).

\* *First British television showing*

## CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 840)

Prizes of the New Collins Thesaurus will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, January 9, 1986. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 12 Coley Street, London WC9 9YT. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, January 11, 1986.

ACROSS  
1 Irrelevant statement (3,8)  
9 Great musicians (7)  
10 Spies (3)  
11 Bond (3)  
12 Layer (4)  
16 Soft French cheese (4)



DOWN  
2 Daisy-like flower (5)  
3 Local (4)  
4 Leave (4)  
5 Small island (4)  
6 Intimidate (7)  
7 Shattered piece (11)  
8 Having windows (11)  
12 In event (2,4)  
14 Glean (3)  
15 Japanese emperor (6)  
19 Old hand (7)  
20 Married (5)  
24 Maltreat (5)  
25 Foot covering (4)  
26 Support (4)  
27 4840 sq yards (4)

SOLUTION TO No 839  
ACROSS: 1 Phobic 5 Bireme 8 ONO 9 Margin 16 Tuna 17 Latent 18 Tack 20 Korb 21 Cohere 22 Lear 23 Gall 25 Gem 28 Cabbie 29 Epaulier 30 Remonades  
DOWN: 2 Heard 3 Bogue 4 Concoct 5 Bodge 6 Rally 7 Madonna 13 Bit 15 Seepage 16 Con 17 Someone 18 Raging 20 Altar 21 Nanny 23 Swirl

The winners of prize concise No 835 are: W. A. Downward, Kenmore Road, Northenden, Manchester; and Mrs M. Nathan, Riverdale Close, Seaton, Devon.

SOLUTION TO No 835 (last Saturday's prize concise)  
ACROSS: 1 Good natured 9 Affront 10 Naive 11 Spa 13 Kali 16 Tuna 17 Latent 18 Tack 20 Korb 21 Cohere 22 Lear 23 Gall 25 Gem 28 Cabbie 29 Epaulier 30 Remonades  
DOWN: 2 Heard 3 Bogue 4 Concoct 5 Bodge 6 Rally 7 Madonna 13 Bit 15 Seepage 16 Con 17 Someone 18 Raging 20 Altar 21 Nanny 23 Swirl

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## Rich pickings and a bundle of laughs

## TELEVISION

The turn of the year means a fresh start for television as the companies take stock of the Christmas ratings battle and unveil their new offerings. In some cases there are formidable gaps to fill.

Saturday nights on BBC1, for instance, are now bereft of *Juliet Bravo* and Friday nights no longer have *Bergerac*. Replacing the popular lady cop is *Strike It Rich!* (BBC1, today, 7.20-8.10pm), an eight-part serial about an assortment of people all apparently unconnected but linked by a common search for lost shares.

Juggling so many characters and sub-plots makes the opening programme difficult to digest but with experienced scriptwriters Eric Peake and N. J. Crisp in charge, things should look up. It is probably worth persevering at least to the second episode.

Robert Banks Stewart, who created the lively and original

*Shoestring*, and the disappointingly tepid *Bergerac*, follows the Jersey detective with *Lovejoy* (BBC1, Fri, 9.30-10.25pm), a comedy-thriller about the antiquities business written by Ian La Frenais. Ian McShane plays the burly hero, an East Anglian hustler on the lookout for a quick buck who stumbles on a gang of robbers.

Among the comedy offerings are two new series, *All in Good Faith* (ITV, Mon, 8-8.30pm) with Richard Briers as a naive country vicar taking on a tough city parish in the Midlands, and *Constant Hot Water* (ITV, Fri, 8.30pm), in which Patricia Phoenix, late of *Coronation Street*, plays a seaside landlady.

Otherwise it is a return for the tried and tested: it remains to be seen whether much more can be squeezed from the package tour sitcom, *Duty Free* (ITV, Wed, 8-8.30pm) but the skilled playing of Simon Callow and Brenda Blethyn should sustain a second series of *Channel 4's* *Chances in a Million* (Mon, 9.30-10pm).

I fear, however, that none will match the wit of Yes, Prime

Minister (BBC2, Thurs, 9-9.30pm) in which Paul Edington's dithering Jim Hacker finally makes it to Number 10. The first episode, at least, finds writers Antony Jay and Jonathan Lynn in cracking form. Meanwhile the scurrilous puppet show, *Spitting Image*, is back on ITV tomorrow (9.45-10.45pm).

A social documentary that could stay in the memory is *Frickley - The Changes*, which runs in five parts on BBC2 from Monday to Friday (times vary). It examines the effect of the coal strike on five families from West Yorkshire, following them through the year and recording their hopes and fears.

"A South Wales saga to rival any episode of *Dallas* or *Dynasty*", burbles the BBC publicity for *The Marriage* (BBC1, Wed, 9.30-10.15pm). Little of this message from the Rhonda Valley and his fiancée prepare for their wedding; but there are five more programmes to come. Desmond Wilcox is the interviewer/narrator.

## New year revolutions for all that jazz

## RADIO

Historic jazz recordings as most of us will not have heard them before are the stuff of Robert Parker's *Jazz Classics in Stereo*, a 26-part series which starts on Radio 2 tomorrow (4-4.30pm).

Parker is an Australian sound engineer who has one of the finest collections of jazz records in the world. He also developed a revolutionary technique for transferring the flat and scratchy sound of old 78rpm discs into a stereo format with greater clarity.

His programmes cover the years from 1917 to 1947 and all the music he plays has been taken from original 78rpm recordings. Among these coming up fresh and sharp are Jelly Roll Morton, Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Bessie Smith and King Oliver.

Another musical feature, *Glenn Gould: Concert Drop-Out* (Radio 4, tomorrow, 10.15-11pm) traces the strange career of the Canadian pianist who

suddenly abandoned the concert platform at the age of 33 and devoted himself entirely to writing and broadcasting.

As the programme reveals through interviews with friends and colleagues, he was an odd character to say the least. He lived almost as a hermit, wore an overcoat and muffler on the hottest New York day and talked for hours on the telephone with people whom he never met.

Radio 4 gives a new look to Saturday mornings with *Loose Ends* (10.30-11.30am) a chat show-cum-magazine programme hosted by Ned Sherrin. Regular contributors include Angela Gordon, editor of *The Times* Diary. Sunday morning has a new look, too, with the return of *Desert Island Discs* (see page 25).

The dramatic heavyweight of the week is the British Broadcasting premiere of Strindberg's early play, *Master Olof* (Radio 3, Wed, 7.30-9.40pm), translated and adapted by Strindberg's biographer, Michael Meyer. The story of a young

priest who defies the established church, it has the Royal Shakespeare Company actor Miles Anderson in the name part.

The *Afternoon Play* on Thursday (Radio 4, 3-4pm) is the first of a trilogy by Andrew Rissak, *A Man Alone*. Ronald Pickup, making a rare appearance on radio, plays a successful novelist and television producer who is tormented by a schoolboy friendship that went tragically wrong.

Showbusiness reminiscences can make diverting programmes as *It's a Funny Business* has often reminded us. The series is back on Wednesday (Radio 2, 10-10.30pm) when Mike Craig's guest is Betty Driver, a West End star at the tender age of 14 and best known latterly as Betty Turpin of *Coronation Street*.

Wednesday also sees the return of *Influences* (Radio 4, 7.20-7.45pm) in which Labour's Roy Hattersley and Tory Jeffrey Archer talk not of politics but of how their lives were shaped by remarkable mothers.



## THE WEEK AHEAD



## OPERA

**SACHS ROAMER:** Norman Bailey is back as Hanne Sachs, his most famous role, in the English National Opera's revival of *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. He was the first Englishman to sing it at Bayreuth, but Coliseum audiences have not seen the Bailey Sachs for 10 years. London Coliseum (01-836 3161) from today.



## FILMS

**DRAGON SLAYER:** Michael Cimino returns to the screen five years after his hit *Heaven's Gate* with a swashbuckling thriller, *Year of the Dragon* (16). Mickey Rourke plays an upright cop trying to clean up New York's Chinatown. ABC Shafesbury Avenue (01-836 8861), ABC Fulham Road (01-370 0255), from Friday.



## CONCERTS

**KEY NOTES:** José Feghelli, the 24-year-old Brazilian pianist who won the 1985 Van Cliburn Piano Competition in Texas, performs Schumann's *Carnaval*, Villa-Lobos's *Bachianas Brasileiras* No 4, Chopin's *Fantasy Op 48* and Haydn's *Sonata Hob XVI/52*. Queen Elizabeth Hall (01-928 8191). Wednesday, 7.45pm.



## TELEVISION

**TALL STORY:** Rik Mayall, star of alternative comedy, takes a new role reading George's *Marvellous Medicine*, the children's story by Roald Dahl, in *Jackanory* (BBC1, Monday-Friday). Mayall in more familiar guise can be seen in *The Best of Saturday Live* (ITV, today, 9.45-10.45pm).



## JAZZ

**TOUGH TENOR:** George Coleman missed the glory generally reflected on Miles Davis's saxophonists in the 1960s. But he matured into an improviser of exuberance and almost intimidating authority. He is appearing at Ronnie Scott's Club, 47 Firth Street, London W1 (01-439 0747), Monday to Saturday.



## DANCE

**STYLE POINTS:** Elaine McDonald, Scottish Ballet's gentle, stylish ballerina, is seen too rarely in London but this week, besides dancing *The Nutcracker* with her own company in Glasgow, she gives two guest performances in the same place for London Festival Ballet. Festival Hall (01-928 3191), Tuesday and Wednesday.

## ARTS DIARY

## Running in to trouble

The Car Wars battle between biographer Robert Lacey and his American opposite number over who will be first into the bookshops with their biographies of Henry Ford II, is revving up nicely. David Horowitz and Peter Collier have accused Lacey, the biographer of the Queen, of "spying" Lacey, based in Detroit while he completes his three-year task, has suggested that Collier only found the motor city because he won a free trip there in a raffle. On research, though, Lacey reckons he is well ahead: for a time he worked on the Ford production line making Lincoln cars.

## Is it a write off?

Tom Stoppard has just returned from Hollywood where he has delivered his screenplay of J. G. Ballard's novel *The Empire of the Sun*, not knowing whether the film will ever be made. Stoppard has had much experience of the vagaries of Tinseltown, having delivered a treatment of *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern* (not made) and written the script of *Brazil* (nearly not released in the United States). "It's going to be an expensive film to make - lots of war scenes against the backdrop of Shanghai. It's seen through the eyes of an eight-year-old boy, and let's face it, you can't get Robert Redford to play the role", I am told.

—The remarkable, if daunting, prospect of Lord Olivier and Cliff Richard in the same West End musical appears to have intrigued those who like to book their entertainers well in advance. Although *Times* does not open until April, its producers predict they will have sold every seat in the show for a year ahead. Olivier will not, however, be treading the boards in the show. Following what sounds like a highly uncomfortable filming session, it will be his moving image which will speak to the audience each night.

## Two to be Prue

Two actresses will simultaneously be playing the buxom Miss Prue in Congreve's *Love for Love* in London from January 16. The first, Sally Dexter, is in her twenties and appearing in repertory at the Lyttelton. The second, Mrs Abington, is a 200-year-old. That is because she is a painting.



Mrs Abington and Sally Dexter by Reynolds, soon to be seen in his major exhibition at the Royal Academy. I am told that the girls have similar physiques, but he wouldn't like to swear that the 20th-century version is in the habit of sucking her thumb in quite the provocative manner of Reynolds's Miss Prue.

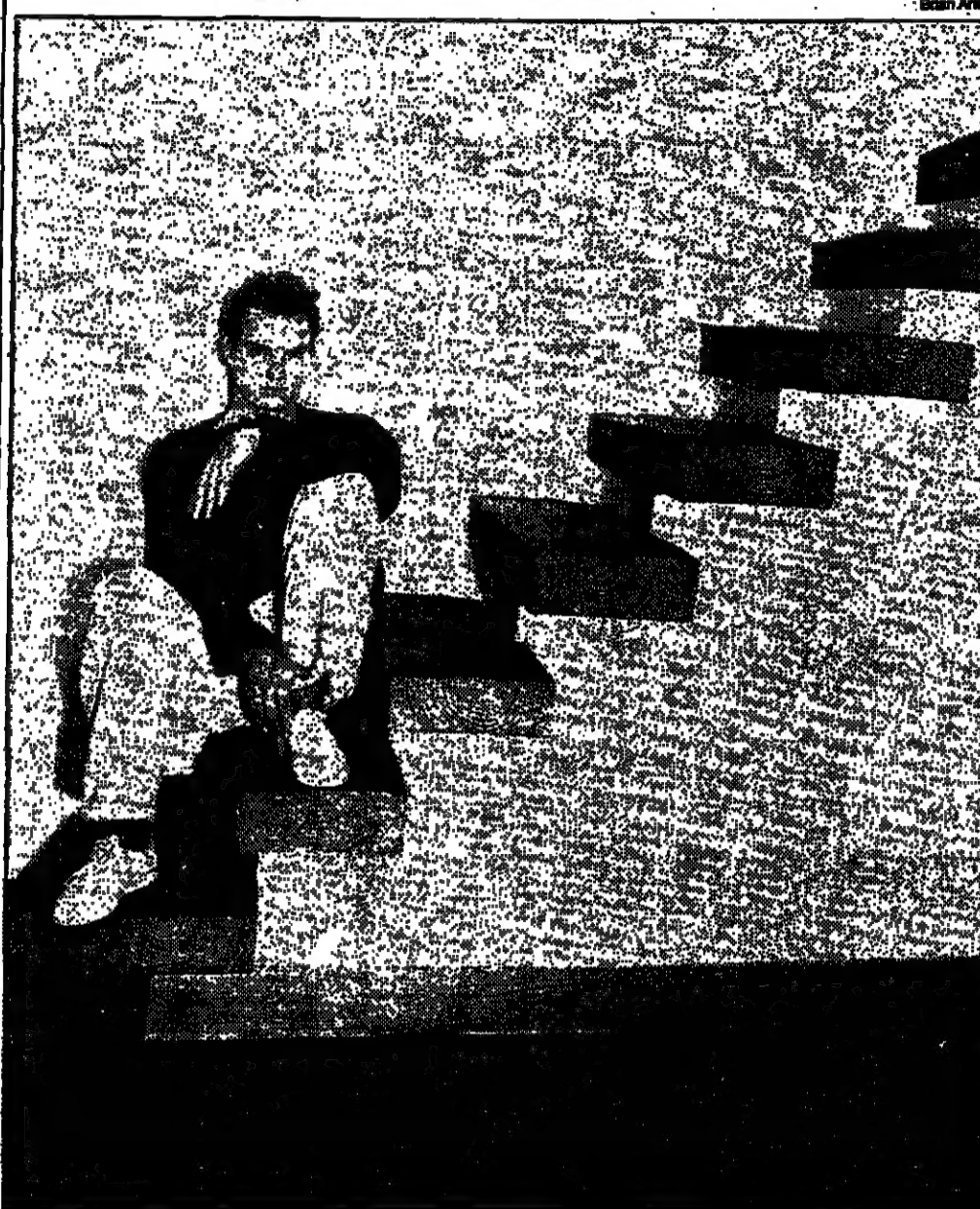
## Sunrise set

Speculation over the appointment of the head of the BBC's new Daytime Television programmes may be out of place as he content has yet to be decided. However, the smart money is on Roger Laughton, 36, current head of Network features. His track record is good: he has been in charge of such diverse productions as *Great River Journeys* and *Film 45*. But there is one innovation that he would probably prefer to forget - the televising of the rather low-brow *Jane*, the wartime heroine who brought new meaning to the phrase "strip cartoon".

## Christopher Wilson

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## Released from the Police



## Sting embarks on a new phase of his solo career when he starts a major tour of the UK tonight, writes Michael Cable

It happens to all bands, not just the Police. You start off as a democracy and then someone emerges as the leader. It usually ends in trouble.

The speaker is Sting, singer, bass-player and song-writer of the Police, and as such, the leader of the most successful rock group since the Beatles and the Rolling Stones. Tonight, partly as a result of the friction which beset the Police, he goes on stage as a solo artist in Bournemouth at the start of a major British tour.

During the past year, he has not only consolidated his solo career with serious acting parts in the films *The Bridge* and *Plenty*, which starred Meryl Streep, but also established himself as a solo performer and recording artist. His album, *The Dream of the Blue Turtles*, securely lodged in the British and American charts for the past six months, has sold more than 1.5 million copies. He has played to full houses in Europe and America with a group of leading jazz musicians, garnering generous critical plaudits while generating yet more record sales.

But despite this success, including two Top Five singles in America, he has yet to achieve a genuine Top Twenty hit in Britain (although he had a novelty success in 1982 with "Spread a Little Happiness" from the film *Brimstone and Treacle*). Sting needs a successful tour to put that right.

With his intelligence, athletic build and photogenic good looks, Sting finds and retains international acclaim with little difficulty. "I see my picture everywhere and my name in lights and I keep thinking 'How on earth did I pull this off?', he says, nonchalantly.

One explanation, apart from his obvious talent, may be his willingness to take risks. He was born Gordon Matthew Sumner, to a family of modest means, in Northumberland, in 1951. By 1976 he had a comfortable job as a primary school teacher in Cramlington, a new town just north of Newcastle, a wife, the actress Frances Tomelty, and a first baby on the way. By night he played bass and sang in a local jazz-rock band called Last Exit.

Leaving his job and taking his wife and baby to London in January, 1977, with only the

stenderest of prospects - including an invitation from the drummer Stewart Copeland to form a band to be called the Police - may have seemed little short of folly.

Just over two years later, the Police's first hit single "Roxanne" began climbing the British and American charts and their album *Outlandos D'Amour* entered the British charts, where it was to remain for the next 96 weeks. Sting had also completed work on two feature films, Chris Petit's *Red in the Face* and *Quadrophenia*, in which he played a prominent role as a mod gang leader, the Ace Face. The part did no harm to his incipient heart-throb image.

Since then, the Police have sold more than 40 million records, almost all written by Sting: "I don't always find it easy, but I know as soon as I put my pen down when I've written a hit I often say to people, 'Hey, I've just written a hit'".

He recently received a special award to mark one million plays of the "Every Breath You Take" on American radio. "If you work it out that's the equivalent of playing it non-stop for more than five years on end", he says, shaking his head. "It's staggering when you think about it like that."

His music has made him a multi-millionaire. He recently paid over £300,000 for Yehudi Menuhin's Highgate home, owns a loft apartment in New York's fashionable Soho district and runs three race horses, although he still drives a Volkswagen. He has a new girlfriend, the actress Trudie Styler, who gave birth to his fourth child last May.

His supreme self-confidence as a musician is balanced by his relatively humble status as an

"apprentice" actor. "My career has been patchy but I'm growing as an actor all the time. I don't expect to be Dustin Hoffman or Laurence Olivier overnight, but every film I've done has been successful. None of them was *Star Wars* but none of them was intended to be. I'm not at all disappointed."

A studious and serious man, Sting has sought inspiration for his songs in Jung, Kurt Weill and Bertolt Brecht. Given half a chance he will talk at length about the pseudo-psychanalytical origins of his album title. It is sometimes suggested that he takes himself a little too seriously but his soft-spoken charm defuses the charge.

Sting's domination of the Police led to friction and for the last year they have been taking a break from each other. "We got a good result with the Police, but we were basically at war with each other for eight years. I still have a good relationship with Andy (Summers) and Stewart. I still love those guys. Whether we play together again is in the air, but it would be nice."

The solo project he has undertaken in the meantime was a typically audacious move which once again paid dividends. He recruited four heavyweight American jazz musicians and set out to create a music unlike that of the Police, but commercial nevertheless.

Michael Apted, director of *Coal Miner's Daughter*, was engaged to make a high-budget documentary film, *Bring On The Night* (premiered at the Cork Film Festival in October) detailing the behind-the-scenes preparations for the first solo concert in Paris last May and the world's press was flown in to witness the launching of the band.

The ensuing success stands in stark contrast to last year's rather pallid solo efforts by Freddie Mercury and Mick Jagger, two comparable vocalists, with similar aspirations. The question now is, will the tour push his current single "Russians" into the Top Twenty and give him the success in Britain that he has enjoyed in America?

Sting's tour begins tonight at Bournemouth International Centre (0202 297257). Next Manchester Apollo (061 273 3775). Thurs: Newcastle City Hall (0832 320007).

## THEATRE

## IN PREVIEW

**ELMER GANTY:** Steve Brown's musical, from the Sinclair Lewis novel about the unbelievably hell-fire preacher, directed by Giles Croft. Celia Terrie Club, 115 Upper Street, London N1 (01-226 1916) From Mon. Press night, Thurs, Fri, Jan 11. Opens Jan 13.

## OPENINGS

**FATHER'S LYING DEAD ON THE IRONING BOARD:** Agnes Bernette presents a collection of songs which she has translated and adapted from the political and satirical cabarets of Germany between 1918-1933. King's Head Theatre Club, 115 Upper Street, London N1 (01-226 1916) From Mon. Press night, Thurs, Fri, Jan 11. Opens Jan 13.

**HAMLET:** Cicely Berry directs a workshop production by the NT, currently touring schools and art centres. Tim McInerney with Kate Butler, Deborah Poplett, Christopher Beales, Simon Scott, Norman Warwick, Bill Moody, Cottisloe (01-928 2252). Opens Thurs, Fri, Jan 11 (matinee and evening). In repertory.

**LES LIAISONS DANGEREUSES:** Christopher Hampton's adaptation from the late 18th-century novel by Laclos about a conspiracy to corrupt an innocent girl. The Pit (01-928 8795/838 8891). Previews today (matinee and evening), Mon and Tues. Opens Wed. In repertory.

**OTHELLO:** Terry Hands directs Ben Kingsley, David Suchet, Niamh Cusack, Janet Dale, Gerard Logan, Tom Mannion, Joseph O'Connor, in the RSC production first seen at Stratford. Barbican (01-626 6795/638 8891). Previews today (matinee and evening) and Mon. Opens Tues. In repertory.

**PULP:** The all-women theatre company Shen return with a "teenage thriller" which sold out its previous run at this theatre in London. Drill Hall Arts Centre, 16 Charles Street, London WC1 (01-837 8270). Opens Tues, Jan 14.

## SELECTED

**HARRY'S CHRISTMAS/THE TELL-TALE HEART:** Forget the first half of Steven Berkoff's one-man double bill, but go for his mezzotinted, brilliant performance of the Poe masterpiece. Donmar Warehouse (01-379 6565). Until Jan 18.

**INTERPRETERS:** Edward Fox and Maggie Smith lead in Ronald Harwood's tricky confrontation at the edges of the cold war. Queen's (01-734 1166).



**MRS WARREN'S PROFESSION:** Joan Plowright (above) as the worn-hearted madam and Jessica Turner as her rebellious daughter. Lyttelton (01-928 2252). In repertory.

**JACK AND THE BEANSTALK:** A traditional pantomime vividly achieved, with Vicky Lockhart as Jack, Matthew Kelly as Mrs Robinson and some robust audience participation. Shaw Theatre, 100 Euston Road, London NW1 (01-388 7727). Final performances today.

**THE DUCHESS OF MALFI:** Ian McKellen is superb as the tyrannical, vindictive Bosola in a grand revival of Webster's Jacobean shocker. With Edward Petherbridge, Jonathan Hyde, Eleanor Bron, Sheila Hancock and Roy Kinnear. Lyttelton (01-928 2252). In repertory.

## OUT OF TOWN

**LIVERPOOL:** The Divines Are Coming: Morecombe and Wise scriptwriter Eddie Braben's first stage comedy features Alison Steadman, Nick Stringer, El Woods and Nick Casey. Playhouse (051 708 8363). Until Jan 25.

**OXFORD:** The Importance of Being Earnest: Oxford Playhouse Company, directed by Richard Williams, will be touring this in repertory with Tom Stoppard's *Travels with My Sister* follows it here. Playhouse (0863 247139). Until Jan 11.

## THE TIMES CHOICE

**MANCHESTER:** The Snowman: Raymond Briggs's benign night visitor, this time adapted for the stage by Anthony Clark, who also directs. Music by Howard Blake includes "Walking in the Air". Contact, University Theatre (061 273 5896). Until Jan 18.

**As You Like It:** Janet McTeer, Suzanne Sheridan, Duncan Bell, James Wilby, Read Rawl, directed by Nicholas Hytner. Royal Exchange (061 833 9833). Opens Thurs. Until Feb 15.

## FILMS

## OPENINGS

**A CHORUS LINE (PG):** After almost a decade of hesitation, Michael Bennett's stage musical about show business arrives on the screen, directed by Richard Attenborough in a nervous array of styles. From Fri at the Odeon Leicester Square (01-930 6111).

**ORION'S BELT (16):** The most lavish feature yet made in Norway - a Cold War thriller appropriately set against Arctic scenery. Three adventures tumble upon a Soviet surveillance post. From Fri at the Classic, Tottenham Court Road (01-436 6148).

## SELECTED

**FIRE FESTIVAL (16):** Traditional life-styles and modern civilization battle for supremacy on the Japanese coast. A raw, jolting film from Mitsuo Yanagimachi, packed with odd behaviour from man and nature with Kirya Kikaji (above). ICA Cinema (01-580 3647).

**BLACK HARBOUR (16):** Powell and Pressburger's exotic and beautiful drama of 1947 set in a Himalayan convent with Deborah Kerr. A dazzling British achievement. Silver Screen (01-228 3694).

**SILVERADO (PG):** Visually resplendent and eclectic Western from Spielberg protégé Lawrence Kasdan. Leicester Square Theatre (01-630 5252).

## DANCE

**SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET:** At Sadler's Wells (01-278 8916) dances Coppélia today (matinee and evening) and Mon. Then a programme (Tues, Wed) of two of the most recent creations for the company: David Bintley's *Flowers of the Forest*, Michael Corder's *Ward of Youth*, and the London premieres of Graham Lustig's *Caught in Time* and Susan Croft's *Travelling Light*. A revival of Balanchine's *Prodigal Son* is given (Thurs, Fri) with Bintley's *Chorus* and Corder's *Card Game*. Season ends Jan 11.

**ROYAL BALLET:** At Covent Garden (01-240 1086) has further performances of Peter Wright's *Nutcracker* today (matinee and evening) and Mon.

## SELECTED

**HOMAGE TO BARCELONA:** Major tribute to the art and architecture of the Spanish city from 1888-1936, with work by Picasso, Miró, Dalí and Gaudí. Hayward Gallery, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3144). Until Feb 23.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

**THE PHOTOGRAPHIC ART: PICTORIAL TRADITIONS IN BRITAIN AND AMERICA:** More than 100 examples of British and American fine art photography from 1839 to the present day. Stills Gallery, 105 High Street, Edinburgh (031 557 1140).

## BOOKINGS

**ROYAL OPERA HOUSE:** Postal booking opens this week for new production of *Der fliegende Holländer* with cast including Robert Lloyd, Simon Estes, and Rosalind Plowright. Also for productions of *Il barbiere di Siviglia* and *Il trovatore*. Royal Opera House, PO Box 6, London WC2. Personal booking from Feb 1.

**DIETRICH FISCHER-DIESKAU:** Postal booking opens this week for revival of Schubert's *Lieder*, with Hartmut Höll (piano) on March 16. Also Montserrat Caballé (soprano) in recital with Miguel Zanetti (piano) on March 23. Telephone and personal booking from Feb 1. Royal Opera House, PO Box 6, London WC2.

**LONDON SINFONETTA:** The new music ensemble will tour Harrison Birtwistle's *Secret Theatre* for the first time. Programme also includes two works by the Japanese composer Toru Takemitsu, and Weill's *Suite from The Threepenny Opera*. Tour starts in London

(Logan Hall) and travels to Durham, Keele, Coventry, Oxford, Bradford, Cardiff and Manchester. Feb 12-25. Details from the Arts Council, 105 Piccadilly, London W1 (01-629 9495).

## LAST CHANCE

**SEA FINLAND:** This presentation of seafaring in Finland includes relics, models and illustrations of primitive small boats, great square-rigged sailing ships, naval battles in the Baltic as well as wrecks. National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, SE1. 10am-5.30pm. Sun, 2-5pm. (01-858 4422).

**KURT SCHWITTERS:** Works of German-born artist who settled in the Lake District after the war. Finishes tomorrow. Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1. (01-821 1313).

**COLDITZ:** Exhibits from Colditz Castle, where allied officers were imprisoned during the Second World War. Finishes tomorrow. Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1. (01-735 8922).

## CONCERTS

**HANDFORD/HALLE:** Besides Joanna Grunberg soloing in Grieg's Piano Concerto, Maurice Handford conducts the Halle Orchestra in Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro* overture and Elgar's *Symphony No 1*. Free Trade Hall, Manchester (061-834 1712). Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

**HOPKINS/PO:** Anthony Hopkins talks about and conducts the LPO in Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro* overture, Handel's *Water Music*, Dvorák's "New World" Symphony, and Carlos Bonell (guitar) solos in Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez*. Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191, credit cards 01-928 8800). Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

**FREEMAN/RPO:** Rossini's *Il barbiere di Siviglia* overture, Handel's *Water Music*, Beethoven's "Pastoral" Symphony are all played by the RPO under Paul Freeman. Enar Henning Simeybe solos, too, in Grieg's Piano Concerto. Barbican Centre, Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

**HERBIG/LSO:** Günther Herbig conducts the LSO in Weber's *Oberon* overture, Brahms's Symphony No 1, and Sergei Edelmann solos in Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 4. Barbican Centre, Thurs, 7.45pm.

**ALMANAC ANNIVERSARY:** The founder members of Songmakers Almanac give a tenth anniversary concert with songs by Schumann and Brahms, including the latter's *Liedeslieder* Walter. Wigmore Hall, Fri, 7.30 pm.

## GALLERIES

**SCULPTURE:** Work by 18 sculptural stars, such as Calder, Caro, Fritz and Padonino; also Roy Lichtenstein: Expressionist woodcuts from 1980, paintings and landscapes from the last two years. Waddington Galleries, 2, 11 and 34 Cork Street, London W1 (01-439 6262). From Mon.

**ICON AND REVOLUTION:** The latest in a series of exhibitions of German 20th-century art focuses on the social and political context out of which the art sprang. Salisbury Centre for Visual Arts, University of East Anglia, Norwich, Norfolk (0693 56161 ext 2467). From Tues.

**CONTEMPORARY ART SOCIETY:** Anniversary exhibition to mark 75 years of art altruism includes works by Hodgkin, Kapoor and MacGill before they are distributed free to national institutions. Christie's, 8 King Street, St James's, London SW1 (01-839 5060). From Fri.

**PENCIL PEN AND BRUSH:** Mixed show demonstrating the prevalence of drawing skills in British 20th-century art. Artists include David Bomberg, Carl Richards and William Roberts. Gillian Jason Gallery, 42 Inverness Street, London NW1 (01-257 4835). From Fri.

## ROCK &amp; JAZZ

**BARRY MANELOW:** How easy it is to forget that buried inside the hype surrounding the housewives' superstar lies a gift for pure pop that has found expression in such kitsch gems as "Mandy", "Could It Be Magic" and "It's a Miracle". Tonight, tomorrow and Mon. Wembley Arena (01-834 1294). Thurs, Fri and Sat, NEC, Birmingham (021 780 4133).

**WHEN YOU WISH UPON A STAR:** Concluding the latest ICA Rock Week, in which each night has been programmed by a trend-spotting rock star. Tonight Jerry Cammiera (of the Specials) presents the Potato 5, the Friday Club and the Rappers, and tomorrow a "surprise folk night" is introduced by Billy Bragg, who is proving that every generation of politicians gets its Bob Dylan. Tonight and tomorrow, ICA Theatre, Nash House, The Mall, London SW1 (01-830 3847).

**SIX FOR '86:** Hot on the heels of the Rock Week, the ICA hosts a rather more sophisticated event devoted to music on the boundaries of rock, jazz and the classical world. Mon: Well and Elmer meet revolutionary songs from the Third World in the big band that calls itself The Happy End. Tues: David Thomas, the tubby eccentric once of Pere Ubu. Wed: Mark Springer, the piano virtuoso. Thurs: Michael Nyman, the foremost British disciple of Philip Glass and Steve Reich, leads his ensemble through music from A Zed and Two Nothings. From Mon, ICA Theatre, Nash House, The Mall, London SW1 (01-830 3847).

**FOR TICKET AVAILABILITY,** performance and opening times, telephones the numbers listed. Theatre: Tony Patrick and Martin Cropper; Galleries: Sarah Jane Chikland; Photography: Michael Young; Dance: John Percival; Films: Geoff Brown; Concerts: Max Harrison; Rock & Jazz: Richard Williams; Opera: Hilary Finch; Bookings: Anne Whitehouse.